

# Tribunal will investigate loss by Crown Agents

The Public inquiry into the £200m losses of the Crown Agents will be conducted by a tribunal under the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act, the Prime Minister said yesterday. He pointed out that that would prevent criminal proceedings against any witnesses. The tribunal's terms of reference have still to be decided.

## Witnesses may be safe from trial

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent

The Prime Minister bowed to the will of all parties in the House of Commons yesterday and accepted that the further inquiry into the £200m losses of the Crown Agents should be held in public under the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act, 1921. On Monday the House rejected government proposals to hold the inquiry in private, with no powers to compel evidence.

Mr Callaghan told MPs that the tribunal must identify those responsible for those deplorable events, but he gave a warning that the appointment of a tribunal would effectively prevent criminal proceedings in future against any witnesses. Civil proceedings might also be affected.

His acceptance was welcomed in all parts of the House. Mrs Thatcher, the Opposition leader, urged that the inquiry should be conducted by a High Court judge. Mr Callaghan indicated that many matters still had to be decided, including the tribunal's terms of reference. The Government had taken into account the proposals contained in the report of the Royal Commission on Tribunals in 1966 under Lord Justice Salmon.

Having read that report carefully, he said, it was clear that it considered that in such cases a general immunity should be granted to witnesses. For anyone who had given evidence to secure a fair trial afterwards because of the facts that would have been known and the conclusions reached.

Mr Steel, the Liberal Party leader, said the public would probably think it more important to get to the bottom of the matter than to ensure that one or two individuals spent some time in jail.

Mr Callaghan said that the need to protect individuals was the main reason why the Government had proposed the form

of inquiry that the House had rejected. The tribunal, he said, would be empowered to call any witnesses, including the Bank of England, Treasury or any other government department. It would also have to consider whether individuals concerned with particular companies should be called.

It would have statutory powers to compel witnesses to attend and give evidence and would ensure a judicial hearing for those subject to criticism. It must also find a way to safeguard the legitimate rights of innocent people to have their reputations protected from public allegations, which might prove unfounded.

Salmon recommendations: One of the recommendations of the Salmon commission in 1966, preceded by the recommendations of the 1921 Act to extend the immunity of an inquiry witness so that "neither his evidence nor statement to the tribunal... is to be used in any subsequent civil or criminal proceedings" except where he is charged with giving false evidence to the tribunal (a Staff Reporter writes). The Act, however, has not yet been amended.

From a practical point of view, it added, the publicity surrounding a tribunal would in any case make a fair trial "virtually impossible". The commission commented: "No doubt this entails a risk that a guilty man may escape punishment. This could be unfortunate, but it is much more important that everything reasonably possible is done to enable a tribunal to establish and proclaim the truth, about a matter which is of a nationwide crisis of confidence."

A tribunal of inquiry into the Poulson affair was resisted by Mr Heath, then Prime Minister five years ago on the ground that witnesses would be virtually immune from prosecution later.

Parliamentary report, page 12

## Tories to stage debate on Polish ship order

By Our Parliamentary Correspondent

The Government is facing a dilemma over a Tory decision, announced officially yesterday, to stage a debate on the Polish shipbuilding order.

Conservatives, led by Mrs Thatcher, angrily cross-examined Mr Callaghan during his question time to find out how the Government had secured the much sought-after order.

Mr Nicholas Ridley (Cirencester and Tewkesbury) maintained that a Watergate-type cover-up was being tried to keep British taxpayers' money that had tempted the Poles, who, he said, had not been asked to put any money on the table.

A difficulty for the Conservatives is that Monday's debate will be the last time to find out what the Tory trade spokesman, will have to open before Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, can disclose what was involved in the deal. Mrs Thatcher did her best

yesterday on Mr Nott's behalf to obtain some figures, but Mr Callaghan told her that he was unable to keep those complicated sums in his head.

Another smaller difficulty for the Conservatives was that the debate would normally take place on a motion to adjourn. But if the Government was defeated the House would immediately rise and the chance to decide before Christmas on the voting system for the European direct elections would be lost. So the Tory motion is expected to be for a reduction in Mr Varley's salary.

Mr Callaghan insisted yesterday that even if he had forgotten the figures nothing needed to be concealed except on the ground of commercial prudence.

An early day motion calling on the state benefits is regarded by senior officers as a reliable indication of the extent of the Army's worsening pay crisis. Of the 180 married men, a total of 61 were receiving rent rebates this month. In the case of gunners, the lowest paid rank, the proportion was estimated at four fifths and several of the younger men also qualified for family income supplement.

Ministry of Defence officials are aware of the growing unease about army pay rates in the province. Recently a confidential directive was sent to all units in Ulster ordering Servicemen not to discuss with the press differences between soldiers' pay and that of the police and firemen.

In addition, I understand that

## Cover-up by Biko inquisitors condemned

The dishonesty of the South African security police in telling doctors that Steve Biko was shamming illness when he had received a fatal blow or blows to the head abundantly demonstrated that they had "something irretrievably hidden", Sir David Napley, president of the Law Society, concludes in his independent report on the inquest.

If, within the first few hours of the inquest, the doctors had been given the full facts, Mr Biko might still be alive, he says. There was no doubt in his mind that the Black Consciousness leader died after injuries inflicted on him by one or more unidentified members of the security police.

Sir David condemned the inquest in Pretoria as an independent observer at the invitation of the Association of Law Societies of South Africa. In his lengthy report he finds a prima facie case of the police obstructing the course of justice to avoid a subsequent trial.

The police cover-up and their perfunctory investigation into Mr Biko's death came in for special criticism. Sir David expresses concern over the behaviour of the Deputy Attorney General who clearly supported the police and doctors in spite of his legal obligation to present a totally objective case.

While in agreement with the magistrate's finding that no particular individual could be said to be criminally responsible for Mr Biko's death, Sir David says he was "demonstrably wrong" in adding a rider that the injuries were probably sustained in a "scuffle" at police headquarters.

No British lawyer would ever have accepted the evidence of the two chief police witnesses, he comments. One, Lieutenant Wilkin, taken off guard by a remark made by Mr Kenridge, a Labour MP, showed a "degree of viciousness which I personally find to be terrifying".

Lawyer's report, page 10



A final, weary gesture by Dr Soares (right) just before the no-confidence vote.

## Dr Soares voted out of power

From Jose Shercliff  
Lisbon, Dec 8

The Socialist Government of Dr Mario Soares was voted out of power by the Portuguese Assembly of the Republic at 5.45 this morning. Dr Soares handed in his resignation to President Eanes this afternoon.

His Government fell over a motion of confidence called for by the Prime Minister, which was rejected.

Basically he had asked the House for their confidence in the Government's negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a \$500m (about £270m) loan which would clear the way for large-scale international aid. The IMF's conditions call for measures to

reduce Portugal's \$1.2m balance of payments deficit by a third.

After a 44-hour debate, which began on Tuesday, 100 Socialist deputies voted in support, but the other 159, of the Social and Christian Democratic parties, the Communists, one Popular Democratic Union deputy and six Independents voted against. There were no abstentions.

There was suspense to the last moment over the way the Communists would vote. Had they supported the Government they could have maintained it in power, but it is believed, with obligations to make concessions.

During the last hours of the debate, Dr Alvaro Cunhal, the Communist Party leader, conferred with the President.

Dr Soares's failure to find a platform of understanding between the opposition parties upon which to found a government of national salvation has largely been due to the fact that the Social and Christian Democrats refuse to take part

in any form of negotiation with the Communists.

Dr Freitas do Amaral, the leader of the Christian Democrats, said he did not think it was possible for the President to persuade the political parties to form a coalition but "he must try to do so". Dr Amaro Cunha Leal, of the Social Democratic Party, considered the whole matter "an episode in the democratic life of a people".

President Eanes must now nominate a new Prime Minister, after taking advice from the Council of the Revolution, an advisory body, and the parties represented in Parliament. Dr Soares has stated that he would be willing to attempt to form a new government if called upon "in the national interest".

Lisbon, Dec 8.—President Eanes today decided to go ahead with a planned visit to West Germany next week despite the political crisis. At the same time he has begun consultations aimed at forming a new government.—Agency France-Press.

Leading article, page 17

## Miners' leaders vote for 12-month rule

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

The threat of a clash between the miners and the Government receded yesterday when coalfield leaders reassured their power and brought the National Union of Mineworkers into line with the Cabinet's income policy.

As predicted in *The Times* two days ago, the NUM executive voted in London to ignore a secret pithead ballot rejecting the 12-month rule. Those figures coincide with the left-right division on the executive.

Mr Scargill said afterwards: "There are people who seem determined to maintain a Labour Government in power rather than look after the interests of the miners." He said the decision taken by the executive, which went against both the July policy-making conference and the recent pithead ballot, was totally unconstitutional, and added: "We are considering legal action."

He declared that Yorkshire miners would insist on receiving as much as Mr McCahey said. "A battle lost is not the end of the war."

The Yorkshire area council will debate litigation on the issue, but communist coalfield leaders such as Mr Michael McGeaney, the Scottish president, do not see the need for this. Instead, it seems that they will look to a campaign to win £135 a week for face-workers, £114 for others underground and £92 for surface workers early next week. A battle lost is not the end of the war.

The coal board will reply to the union's pay demand in January. But it has already ruled out any breach of the 12-month rule and unless the pay policy collapses as a result of industrial action by other workers it is practically certain that a settlement will be sought within the 10 per cent guidelines.

The miners' leaders voted to give £5,000 to the Fire Brigades Union hardship fund.

Photograph, page 4

## Callaghan backing for TV attack on Front

By Our Political Reporter

The Prime Minister implicitly backed the Labour Party's attack on the National Front in a party political broadcast when he was questioned in the Commons yesterday.

Although he said that there was no ministerial responsibility for the broadcast, Mr Callaghan told MPs: "As I told the Labour Party leader, there will be no carefully weighed electoral consideration to be made by a suitable ambiguous phrase by the political parties on these matters. Our opposition to racism must be total."

Some senior ministers were full of praise for the programme last night. They thought it was high time the whole argument was brought out into the open. Conservative leaders, however, have their doubts

whether the broadcast, which was cut by the BBC on legal grounds, will improve race relations.

A Conservative backbencher, Mr George Gardiner (Reigate), said building up the importance of the National Front had done it more good than all its marches and meetings over the past year.

The BBC yesterday rejected a National Front demand for the right of reply. An official said the rules did not allow it adding: "The National Front will obviously get their chance to put their views when the story is covered by news and current affairs outlets."

Mr Martin Webster, national organizer of the National Front, described the broadcast as "Continued on page 2, col 3"

## The manic-depressive British eat like crazy

From Michael Leasman  
New York, Dec 8

Mr Kingman Brewster, the new United States Ambassador to London, thinks Britain is in an almost manic-depressive situation. He explained why in a long interview published in the *New Yorker*.

"There was a kind of all-out, woolly attitude in June and July and now, in the autumn, there is great euphoric optimism. It is like crazy," he declared, "particularly in the clubs and in the City."

"You go down to lunch in the boardroom at Lloyds or at any of the banks or newspapers and you find they're really in competition with one another, trying to see who can serve the finest food, including the best smoked salmon. It's marvellous if you like to eat, as I do, but you have to watch yourself."

"They have such enormous energy resources. And their best resource is their intelligence. Or perhaps even more important than that are tradition, consideration and moderation which are prevalent. In those terms, those fundamental terms, I am really very optimistic."

Apart from that, what seems to have most impressed Mr Brewster, a former academic, about being Ambassador in London is the food. "The British eat like crazy," he declared, "particularly in the clubs and in the City."

"You go down to lunch in the boardroom at Lloyds or at any of the banks or newspapers and you find they're really in competition with one another, trying to see who can serve the finest food, including the best smoked salmon. It's marvellous if you like to eat, as I do, but you have to watch yourself."

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## Firemen given special guarantee on wages

The Government has offered the striking firemen an "exceptional" guarantee of an agreed settlement proof against unforeseen adverse changes in the economy. That would apply to new awards in 1978 and 1979. The Conservative Front Bench argued that the result represented a "time bomb" comparable with the occasion when civil servants' pensions were made inflation proof.

At Carterick, a "second wave" of servicemen are being instructed by experts from the RAF Regiment's airfield fire-fighting force. So far 7,000 troops have taken the short courses and 1,100 are due next week. The Home Secretary has blocked a pay claim by Britain's 63 chief fire officers that would have given phased increases totalling 22 per cent.

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## Communists put on pressure

Italy's Communists, seeking a place in the Government, have served notice on the ruling Christian Democrats to reconstruct the administration in the coming weeks or face trouble. The Socialists and the Republican Party have already come out in favour of including the Communists in a coalition to replace the present minority administration.

## Concorde beats Malaysia ban

The British Airways-Singapore Airlines joint Concorde service from London to Singapore will start today despite Malaysia's refusal to give it air traffic control rights. It will be routed over Indonesia. The Indonesians have said they have no objection to the Concorde.

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## Greek request to British Museum

Greek experts, trying to preserve the Acropolis in Athens from rapid decay, have asked for the return of an Ionic column on display in the British Museum. The column, known as the Elgin column, in the last century, it supported a portico of the Erechtheion, which the Greeks now want reconstructed.

## Tory time helps European debate

A vote on how to elect MPs to the European Assembly is expected next Tuesday after an opposition offer of extra time from a Supply day. Proportional representation is still expected to be rejected.

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## Palestinians on Cairo mission

Despite threats by the Palestine Liberation Organization of death for any Palestinians visiting Egypt at present, a 96-strong delegation is leaving Gaza today to congratulate President Sadat in Cairo on his peace initiative.

## Training policy 'must succeed'

The new government industrial training policy must succeed or industry risks having responsibility for training its own workers, Mr John Monks, head of the TUC organization department, told an education conference.

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## Owen warning on troop cuts

Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, told the Nato Council in Brussels that the negotiations with the Warsaw Pact on troop reductions would lose all credibility unless some progress was made soon.

## Hope for boy: A boy of 12 with Down's syndrome is expected to get the mobility allowance he has been denied

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## Parliamentary report

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Business News, pages 21-27

Stock markets: Equities lost earlier gains and the FT Index closed 0.1 down at 485.2

Financial Editor: Crystal-gazing at J. Lyons: Takeovers: Progress on price sensitive information; Investment trusts: Ingenuity from Christian OUS switches emphasis

Business features: David Blake on the economic background to yesterday's defeat of the Soares government in Portugal

Business Diary: British car company chief resigns

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## Pay grievances forcing Ulster troops to leave Army

On the eve of today's Commons debate on soldiers' pay, interviews with Servicemen from two Ulster bases reflect widespread dissatisfaction. The Adjutant General says in "Soldier" magazine that pay is lagging behind civilian wages (Report, page 2).

From Christopher Walker  
Belfast

Discontent with pay among British soldiers in Northern Ireland is causing an unprecedented number to apply for discharge by purchase. It has left those remaining in a mood of anger and frustration which has been little publicized because of military rules.

The full extent of the dilemma facing the Government is

apparent in official figures released yesterday at the Belfast headquarters of one artillery regiment of 350 men which has been in the province since October. Over the past five months 34 of the men have applied for premature voluntary release, compared with a total of 31 during the previous two years.

In the same regiment the increasing number of soldiers relying on state benefits is regarded by senior officers as a reliable indication of the extent of the Army's worsening pay crisis. Of the 180 married men, a total of 61 were receiving rent rebates this month. In the case of gunners, the lowest paid rank, the proportion was estimated at four fifths and several of the younger men also qualified for family income supplement.

Ministry of Defence officials are aware of the growing unease about army pay rates in the province. Recently a confidential directive was sent to all units in Ulster ordering Servicemen not to discuss with the press differences between soldiers' pay and that of the police and firemen.

In addition, I understand that

Mr Brown, Under Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, encountered open hostility from many of the Army's most senior officers when he spoke at the Adjutant-General's conference in London on November 30. Similar "barracking" of government ministers is predicted for the future by army sources in Belfast.

A letter sent recently to the battery commander of the artillery regiment by a promising young lance-bombardier is typical of many written since the unit arrived in Belfast:

Sir, I wish to submit this my application for discharge by purchase. I have come to enjoy the army way of life throughout my army service since 1971, but I can no longer enjoy the life any more because of my salary each month. With my wife expecting our second child, I will find it impossible for us to live in the Army. We find it difficult already with the state of pay. We handed our army quarter back to help us financially. I am sorry Sir, but we cannot afford to live in the Army, that is why I am submitting my application.

Although the Army's pay structure is complex it is generally accepted that the average wage for an ordinary soldier

serving in Ulster is 33p an hour. Because of the security difficulties, most men work about 90 hours a week. In violent periods that may rise to 120 hours.

Among the men interviewed who were preparing to buy themselves out was an infantry sergeant with 10 years' service. He is 28, with two young children, and his take-home pay after deductions for quarters, gas and electricity is £47.58. "The move will be a difficult one, but I have now decided to join the customs and excise," he said. "When they do extra work, unlike us, they get paid for it, and I have got to that stage in life when I feel I must start to save for a future."

The greatest worry being caused by the increasing numbers trying to leave the Army is the effect on efficiency and morale.

"Politicians from either party who claim that morale is high are talking rubbish," an infantry major, aged 32, said. "It is adequate, and that is about all. The blokes are bloody angry and when I think of the number of good ones who want out, it turns me grey."

Continued on page 2, col 5

## Princess Anne names her child Peter

Princess Anne has named her baby Peter Mark Andrew, Buckingham Palace announced last night. He will be christened in the music room at Buckingham Palace by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Coggan, at noon on Thursday, December 22.

Among the godparents will be the Prince of Wales and the Right Rev Geoffrey Tiarks, a cousin of Captain Phillips, a former Bishop of Maidstone, who retired last year. The others will be friends of Princess Anne and Captain Phillips: Captain Hamish Lochore, Lady Cecil Cameron of Lochiel, and Mrs Timothy Holderness-Roddam, formerly Miss Jane Bullock, a riding companion of the Princess.

Peter is Captain Phillips's second name and that of his father. The child has been called Mark after his father and Andrew after the Princess's brother.

Princess Anne and Captain Phillips decided that the child, who is three weeks and three days old, should not have a title.

"Because of military discipline we have only three ways of making our case: courageous senior officers, our wives, and anonymous letters," a sergeant aged 29 declared. "More and more of us are beginning to ask what the generals are doing to make the feelings of their men known."

Continued on page 2, col 5

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## HOME NEWS

# Government guarantees firemen settlement proof against adverse changes in economy

By Fred Emery  
Political Editor

The Government, after a Cabinet meeting yesterday, dramatized its offer to the striking firemen by undertaking "exceptionally to guarantee" that an agreed settlement should be made proof against unforeseen adverse changes in the economy.

That would apply to new awards phased in both November, 1978, and November, 1979. Mr Rees, Home Secretary, announcing to the Commons that strengthening of what had been eight days ago only a proposal to consider, suggested that although the Government would not budge now beyond its award of 10 per cent more pay, it would substantially concede later to the firemen all they had been asking.

The Government was "prepared to see a defined relationship between the pay of the qualified fireman and that of other workers" as part of a new "formula for the proper remuneration of the fire service".

Further, the Government would agree to the full implementation of the formula in two roughly equal shares. The phasing in would not be thwarted by any unforeseen adverse change in economic circumstances.

All in all, for Mr Rees it provided "an honourable basis" for settling the strike.

Mr Rees wanted the amounts left for negotiation. But after in Whitehall it was admitted that if the local authorities agreed to give the firemen what they asked for, namely average industrial wages plus 10 per cent, then the Government would be most unlikely to object. No figure was compared for the increase that that would give firemen next November but it would be very substantial.

In Whitehall it was also being said that the Government certainly would like other public service workers to settle next year in such a phased fashion as if the stillborn phase three could be succeeded by a phase four.

Mr Whitelaw, for the Conservative Front Bench, welcomed Mr Rees's objective but wanted a "no strike" undertaking from firemen in return. Mr Rees insisted that that would be unhelpful.

Nearer to Mrs Thatcher's thinking, however, was Mr Norman Tebbit, Conservative MP for Waltham Forest, Chingford. He said Mr Rees had left "a time bomb ticking" with his guarantee, of the kind no one foresaw when inflation-proof pension had been given to one particular group in society (civil servants).

Our Labour Staff writes: The

union's executive will again this morning to consider Mr Rees's statement. The employers meet this morning to resume discussions on the formula.

Mr Terence Parry, the union's general secretary, who was given a rough outline of the Home Secretary's statement before yesterday's executive meeting, indicated that he would not comment on it until today.

It remains to be seen whether the guarantee to underwrite the formula in future, compared with the promise a week ago by the Prime Minister that such a guarantee would be considered, will persuade the executive to test its members' attitude to sustaining the strike.

At best the executive would not build a recalled national conference, required to end the strike unless the 30 per cent claim is met, without detailed informal soundings.

The most likely course would be a circular to branches for study on the picket lines giving details of the Government's commitments and the document from local authority leaders that the union hopes to have by this evening.

Fire death: Mrs Alice MacNess, an elderly woman living alone in Gordon Road, Finchley, north London, died in a fire at her home yesterday.

Summonses alleging breaches of fire regulations were served on the Manor Hotel, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, where two children died last week.

Parliamentary report, page 12

## Fire chiefs' salary claim is blocked by Mr Rees

By Donald Macintyre  
Labour Reporter

The Home Secretary has blocked a pay claim by the country's 63 chief fire officers which would have provided phased increases totalling more than 22 per cent.

He has told the employers' side of the national joint council for the fire service, that the claim by the Chief Officers and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association is outside the Government's pay guidelines.

The local authority employers, the same group negotiating with the striking firemen, have been committed since 1975 to putting the chief fire officers on the same salary levels as chief officers of other council departments. The present claim seeks to achieve parity by a 2.7 per cent rise for nine months from October 1, followed by a rise of at least 19.5 per cent from July 1.

Other chief officers employed by local authorities received a rise of over 20 per cent in the spring of 1975 but plans to give

the chief fire officers an equivalent amount were blocked by the introduction of the 16 limit. The reasoning behind the claim is that spread over the next 12 months a 22 per cent policy it would add only 9.3 per cent to the chief fire officers' total wage bill and therefore fall within the 10 per cent limit.

The association, whose members' earnings range between £8,500 and £11,500 a year, is to hold an executive meeting next Thursday. An option that will be considered is the revival of a claim to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service under schedule 11 of the Employment Protection Act, on the ground that earnings are below those paid for comparable jobs.

Mr Thomas Watkins, the association's secretary, who is chief fire officer for Derbyshire, said yesterday: "Our members are likely to be very disappointed, especially in view of the enormous stress on them because of the firemen's strike."

## RAF runs a four-hour fire course

From John Chatter  
Catterick

A "second wave" of Servicemen, being taught firefighting at the Royal Air Force Regiment depot at Catterick, Officers and instructors have evolved a training curriculum that takes four hours.

It is clear from the numbers present through the course that the RAF's permanent firefighting force, another 1,100 are due on courses next week. Those figures taken in conjunction with the output from Royal Navy and Army training schools in the South indicate that by next week nearly 20,000 Servicemen will have been trained for firefighting about double the number actually deployed.

The small team of 12 officers and NCO instructors at Catterick view with pride the performance of thousands of their "old boys" and five women. Senior officers including the commander of the RAF Regiment depot, Group Captain David Bolton, who are touring units in action, report generally high morale.

Sergeant Instructor John Coupland, a former civilian fireman, whose son, Michael, is a regular RAF fireman serving in Ulster, said: "It looks as though the lessons we are teaching are standing the lads in good stead. They are obviously putting fire out and saving lives without getting themselves involved in hopeless situations."

The training courses at Catterick have been kept to a regular RAF fireman serving in Ulster, said: "It looks as though the lessons we are teaching are standing the lads in good stead. They are obviously putting fire out and saving lives without getting themselves involved in hopeless situations."

There is no substitute, the instructors say, for experience to be gained later "on the ground" and no attempt is made to match the emergency training with the eight-week course a full-time RAF fireman has to undergo before he takes his first place as an operational fireman.

Troops usually arrive the night before their training session, start work early next day and are on their way back to their units that evening. The record time is thought to be held by a Royal Horse Artillery contingent which arrived by air from Cyprus early one morning, landed at RAF Leeming, near York, but training and went on fire duty in Leeds the same night.

Our Labour Staff writes: The

## Boy almost certain to get mobility allowance

By Craig Seton

Mr Morris, Minister for the Disabled, whose department is appealing against the award of a mobility allowance to Robert Edmunds, a mentally handicapped boy of 12, has told the Commons that he hopes the boy will win the case.

His unexpected remark, taken together with other assurances, has made it almost certain that the boy will at last get the allowance he has been denied for nearly 15 months.

The Minister's remarks were made in an adjournment debate initiated by Mr Peter Walker, Conservative MP for Worcester, who took up the boy's case when he discovered that the Department of Health and Social Security was appealing against the award of the allowance and that it intended to make it a test case.

The boy, who is from Worcester, suffers from Down's syndrome and is only 10 years old. Mr Walker believed that if the department succeeded in its appeal, to be heard next week, many mentally handicapped children would be denied the allowance even if their walking was affected.

Mr Morris told the Commons that there were serious misconceptions about the department's attitude to claims for the allowance. It had appealed on the grounds that the award for Robert Edmunds to obtain a decision on an important point of law.

He said that the rules for claimants, specifying that they had to be unable to walk or virtually unable to walk, had led to inconsistent decisions from the 13 medical appeal tribunals that adjudicated on claims.

The appeal was essential to clarify the interpretation of the rules, which could now help any disabled people. Down's syndrome victims were not excluded and many were already receiving the allowance.

If it was shown that the boy was not entitled to the allowance he (the minister) could certainly consider changing the criteria for entitlement "to include him and children like him".

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## Army pay fears heighten unions' interest in Service recruiting

By Christopher Thomas  
Labour Reporter

At least five unions are studying the possibility of recruiting among Britain's 320,000 Servicemen and women. Their interest will be boosted today by a public intervention over pay by General Sir Jack Harman, the Adjutant General.

He says in *Soldier*, the official army magazine published by the Ministry of Defence: "In terms of pay comparability with civilian earnings, we are now somewhere between 15 per cent and 20 per cent behind."

The long-standing issue of union recruitment in the Service was reopened yesterday by the second biggest Civil Service union, the Society of Civil and Public Servants, whose general purposes committee spent some time considering the type of Servicemen suitable for recruitment.

Sir Jack, whose interview for *Soldier* was on October 24, says he knows that families are finding it hard to manage. "We shall fall even further behind if we get only the 10 per cent increase which is recommended as the maximum under the pay policy."

Restiveness over Service pay has been reaching the ears of unions for some time. The last

serious interest in unionizing Servicemen was during Mr Heath's Administration. It is now firmly back as a live issue.

The Society of Civil and Public Servants decided "to examine further the possibility of unionizing the Armed Forces". It said the possibilities included the creation of a separate Armed Forces union or the members of the Forces joining appropriate existing unions representing national government employees.

The society, which represents middle-management civil servants, would regard officers up to the rank of colonel as suitable members, involving about 20,000 people, excluding specialists.

Servicemen with trades are actively encouraged to join a union to ease reentry into civilian life. But unionization among other ranks scarcely exists and, particularly at least, would be fertile ground for a large number of unions. It is still not clear, however, how many Servicemen want a union.

The unions' interest was reawakened recently by Mr Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, who said he did not object to the idea in principle of the enrolment of Servicemen.

Mr Clive Jenkins and his Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs decided in principle long ago to recruit senior non-commissioned officers when the climate was right.

Mr William McCall, general secretary of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, said yesterday: "We are interested." But the union had not taken any policy decisions.

The Trades Union Congress' Union, which led previous initiatives, is clearly still interested. Mr Jack Jones forsook the issue during the Heath Administration to concentrate the mind of the trade union movement on its more immediate political crisis with the Government.

The Civil and Public Services Association, the biggest Civil Service union, is keenly interested, but is anxious to prevent a scramble by unions. Some time ago it sought and received assurances from the TUC that unions that had civilian members employed by the Services would be consulted on any recruitment developments.

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has asked Mr Mulley to clarify his statement, and has told its shop stewards to try to increase recruitment of craft workers.

## Tory offer of time for Bill on Europe

By Our Political Editor

Thanks to an offer of time from the Opposition, the Government is to have a day and a half, beginning next Monday evening, for debating and voting on the method of election to the European Assembly. The vote should now come at a reasonable hour on Tuesday night instead of being talked out into the early hours to the possible embarrassment of the Government.

Anti-marketiers, surprised by this subtle Tory-Labour rearrangement of parliamentary business, complained loudly yesterday. Mr Douglas Jay, Labour MP for Wandsworth, Battersea, North, accused Mr Foot, Leader of the House, of "monkeying about" in pursuit of some shadowy, if not shady, political deal.

Mr Foot rejected all insinuations and pleaded that it was in the hands of the House, not his, to decide.

Next week's votes will decide whether the Government's recommended system of election by regional list and proportional representation will be carried, or be replaced with the traditional first-past-the-post method of election.

On the composition of the vote hangs the timing of Britain's European Assembly elections. The Government holds that only by regional list can the election be held next year, as promised to the EEC partners.

Also swinging in the wind is the continuation of the Liberal-Labour pact. Mr Steel is under formal pressure from his party organization to submit to an emergency liberal assembly on the future of the pact should the PR method fail because of lack of substantial Labour support. Present thinking at Westminster is that PR will be defeated.

Before the Commons can even begin debating the election, which is clause three of the Bill, it faces an evening of procedural movement and wrangling.

First, clause one must be dealt with, the stage of the committee of the whole House resumes. That might take several hours before the Speaker accepts closure. Then the Government will introduce its motion to be published tomorrow to take clause three ahead of two. The process was first advocated by Mrs Thatcher two weeks ago as one way of clearing up promptly the doubt over the method.

Mr Enoch Powell, Ulster Unionist MP for Down, South, received little satisfaction, however, when he asked Mr Foot how the House could decide the method before it had decided how many members would be elected (clause two). Mr Powell's intention, of course, is to try to ensure that the Bill dies without a vote.

Assuming that all goes well, despite the ambushes of opponents, Tuesday afternoon's business proper should begin with clause three, and doubtless a series of points of orders.

The final rally on PR is unpredictable because both main parties have made it a free vote. On the government side it is insisted that it is genuinely free, in spite of Liberal hopes that Mr Callaghan has virtually promised to deliver the vote or say, using the "word" of ministers and junior ministers.

The Tories' assessment of their own strength is that they will vote 2 to 1 to defeat PR. That means that about 90 Conservatives will vote for it.

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## Boycott threat to Post Office plan recedes

By Our Labour Staff

The Society of Civil and Public Servants last night effectively withdrew a threat not to take part in a two-year experiment in industrial democracy at the Post Office, beginning on January 1.

A militant motion proposed by the union's executive to a conference of its Post Office group in London was rejected. The motion said the union should dissociate itself from the experiment unless the minimum requirements on the appointment of worker directors were met.

The requirements were that the society should be allowed to appoint somebody to the main board and to all 11 of

the proposed new regional boards.

The conference adopted a more moderate motion, which set those requirements as negotiating targets. Mr Terence Deegan, the society's Post Office group secretary, said: "It makes it highly probable that we shall be participating in the experiment."

The Council of Post Office Unions is offering the society, and other unions that are not being invited to make nominations to the main board a constituency arrangement for their view on the matter to be represented by somebody else. A motion that the society should withdraw from the council was heavily defeated.

## Salaried doctors' service urged by health official

By John Roper  
Health Services Correspondent

The family doctors' service should be salaried, according to a senior health administrator with more than forty years' experience.

Mr Michael Southern, regional administrator with the South West Thames Regional Health Authority, is retiring this month. He has been a senior health administrator for a year. He said yesterday that charging patients as a means of helping to finance the National Health Service would not work.

Additional funds could only come from a greater share of the gross national product. There was no prospect and no joy in trying to "tap it out of the air," he said.

Mr Southern said the idea that the service was falling apart was rubbish. Community care was improving and the nursing services now had a voice, but there should be greater integration of primary care services, which had al-

ready moved forward with practice from health centres and attachment of nurses and health visitors to family doctors.

Recent troubles in the NHS sprang from the fact that it had been protected from harsh realities for many years. Only recently had there been financial cuts.

Mr Southern said consultation in the service had gone too far and there were too many committees, most of which were too big to be effective. Properly industrial relations were poor, perhaps because they were new to the service.

Community health councils had not yet found their role. Some were good and some were bad. Others tried to do too much and knew little about objective criteria.

In Saudi Arabia, Mr Southern, who now earns £14,000 a year, will receive salary and allowances of about £50,000. A senior engineer from the Department of Health and Social Security and a senior supplies officer will accompany him.

Our Labour Staff writes: The

## Farmworkers' rise of 13pc confirmed

Farmworkers, one of the lowest-paid groups in Britain, were awarded a 14.4 per cent rise yesterday despite a government warning that it had reached the 18 per cent guideline.

The award, confirmed by the Agricultural Wages Board, represents a 10 per cent increase on basic earnings, but higher overtime and craftsmen's rates will bring the total award to about 13 per cent.

National Farmers' Union representatives on the board proposed an amendment to bring the award within the 10 per cent ceiling limit. It was defeated by the combined votes of the independent members and the workers' side. The award comes into effect on January 20.

Mr Reginald Bortini, general secretary of the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers, said the award was inadequate but he was satisfied that it was the maximum that could be obtained.

## Judge says law rules out plea bargaining

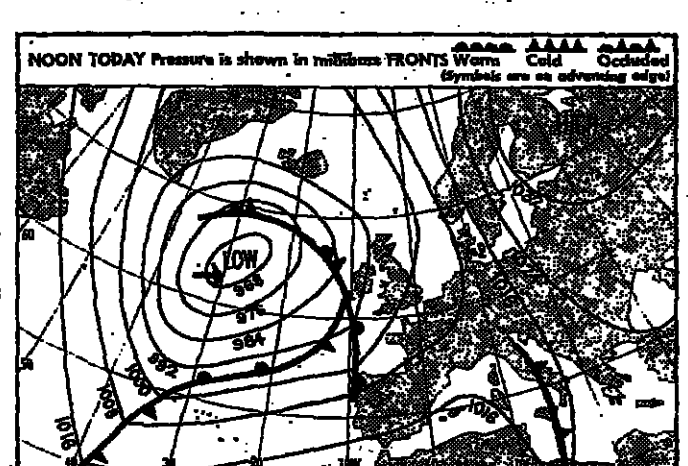
For the second time in three days a prisoner has been freed to dispel any impression of plea bargaining in the courts.

On Tuesday, a man convicted of theft, despite his denial, was freed by the Court of Appeal because the judge at his trial had suggested to counsel in private that if he did not plead guilty, he risked going to prison.

Yesterday, Leslie Atkinson, aged 40, of Hull, serving six months on being convicted of handling a stolen bicycle, was released by the Court of Appeal. Lord Scarman said there had been no plea bargaining.

But he added that what the trial judge did might have given Mr Atkinson and others the impression that there had been plea bargaining. Lord Scarman said that in a pre-trial review of the case in August at Beverley Crown Court, Humber, Judge Pickles had told Mr Atkinson's counsel that if he pleaded guilty the case could be disposed of.

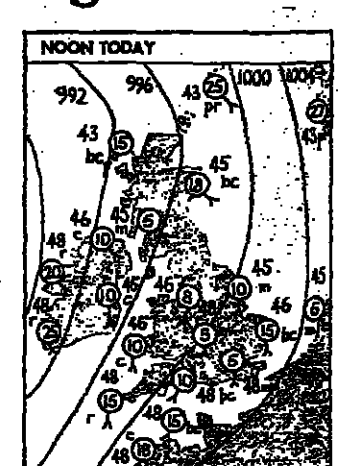
## Weather forecast and recordings



Today  
Sun rises: 7.54 am  
Sun sets: 7.52 pm  
Moon rises: 3.19 pm  
Moon sets: 3.19 pm  
Light moon: Tomorrow.  
Lighting up: 4.22 pm to 7.25 am.  
High water: London Bridge, 12.17 pm, 7.2m (23.6ft). Avonmouth, 5.39 am, 12.7m (41.6ft); 6.2 pm, 12.7m (41.6ft). Dover, 4.19 am, 6.7m (22.0ft); 9.52 am, 6.7m (22.0ft). Hull, 4.19 am, 7.1m (23.2ft); 4.51 pm, 7.3m (23.9ft). Liverpool, 9.39 am, 9.2m (30.3ft); 10.2 pm, 9.3m (30.5ft).

A mild S airstream covers Britain.  
Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:  
London, SE, E. Breeze, East Angles, E. Breeze, Channel Islands: Mostly cloudy, bright intervals developing, scattered showers; wind S, moderate; max temp 11°C (52°F).  
Central & SW England, W. Midlands, Wales, Isle of Man: Rain, rain; 4 am, 4.5 am, 4.5 am, 4.5 am.

Becoming mainly dry, sunny intervals, cloud increasing, rain in places at night, wind S, moderate, increasing fresh; max temp 10°C (50°F).  
NW, central N, NE England, Lake District: Cloudy, hill fog, showers outbreaks of rain, gradually becoming dry; wind S, moderate; max temp 9°C (48°F).  
Bordest, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Mostly cloudy, rain at times, hill fog; wind S, moderate or fresh; max temp 7°C (45°F).  
SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, central Highlands, Argyll: Mostly cloudy, rain or showers, sun near or a little above normal.  
Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind S or SW, fresh to strong, decreasing fresh; sea rough, becoming moderate.



Yesterday  
London: Temp max, 6 am to 6 pm, 12°C (54°F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 8°C (46°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 67 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, 5.1in. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm, 194.1 million sea level, 6 pm, 1.000 million = 29.5in.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; d, sleet; sn, snow.

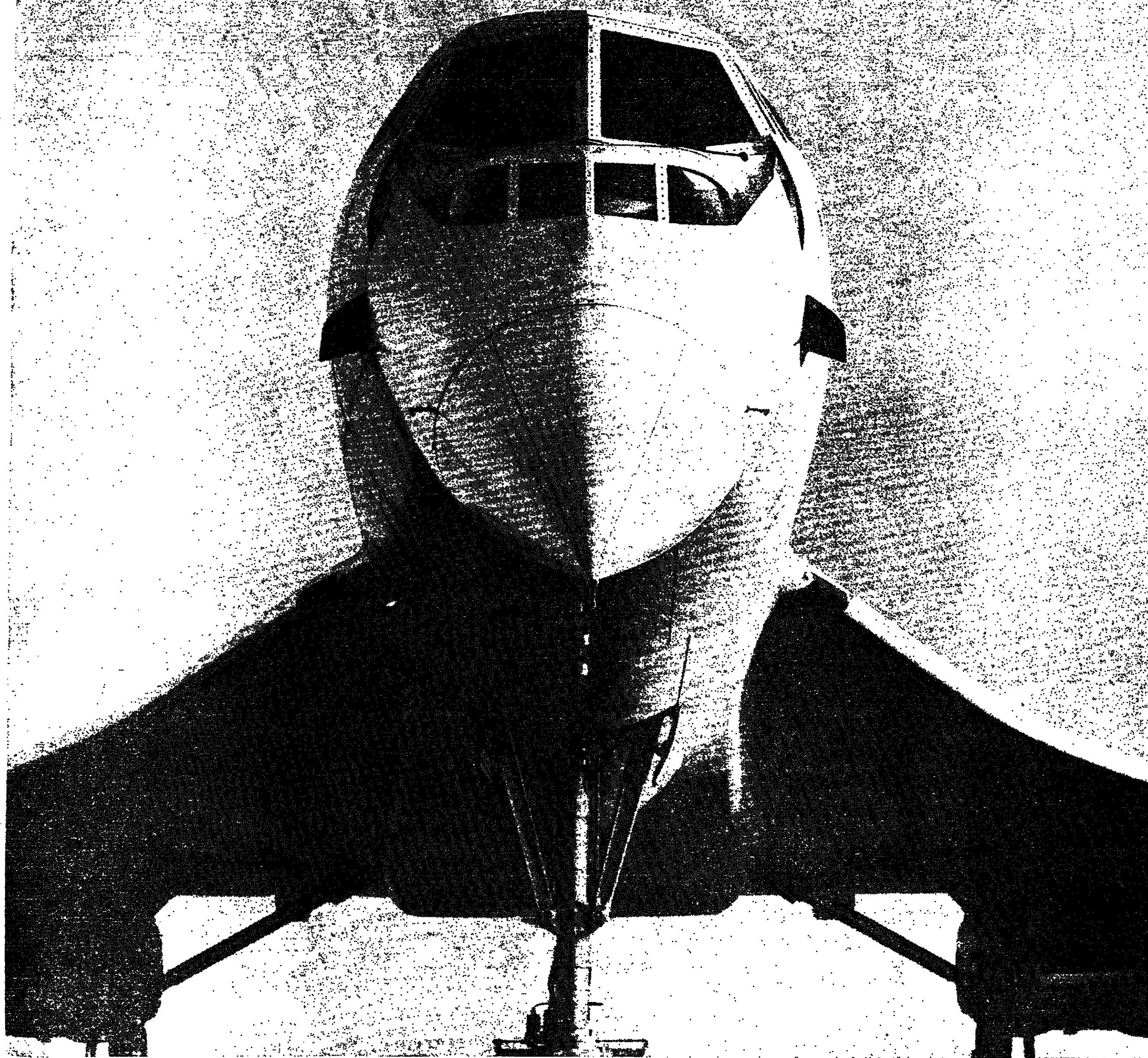
| Area        | Temp | Wind | Cloud | Precip |
|-------------|------|------|-------|--------|
| London      | 10   | SW   | c     | r      |
| Edinburgh   | 8    | W    | c     | r      |
| Birmingham  | 11   | SW   | c     | r      |
| Cardiff     | 10   | SW   | c     | r      |
| Manchester  | 11   | SW   | c     | r      |
| Sheffield   | 11   | SW   | c     | r      |
| Nottingham  | 11   | SW   | c     | r      |
| Leeds       | 11   | SW   | c     | r      |
| Belfast     | 10   | SW   | c     | r      |
| Bristol     | 11   | SW   | c     | r      |
| Exeter      | 11   | SW   | c     | r      |
| Gloucester  | 11   | SW   | c     | r      |
| Reading     | 11   | SW   | c     | r      |
| Southampton | 11   | SW   | c     | r      |
| Windsor     | 11   | SW   | c     | r      |
| York        | 11   | SW   | c     | r      |

OVERSEAS SELLING PRICES

| Commodity   | Price |
|-------------|-------|
| Wheat       | 1.10  |
| Barley      | 1.05  |
| Oats        | 1.00  |
| Rye         | 1.05  |
| Malt        | 1.10  |
| Beet        | 1.10  |
| Turnips     | 1.10  |
| Swedes      | 1.10  |
| Peas        | 1.10  |
| Lentils     | 1.10  |
| Beans       | 1.10  |
| Flour       | 1.10  |
| Sugar       | 1.10  |
| Coffee      | 1.10  |
| Tea         | 1.10  |
| Cocoa       | 1.10  |
| Rubber      | 1.10  |
| Latex       | 1.10  |
| Gold        | 1.10  |
| Silver      | 1.10  |
| Diamonds    | 1.10  |
| Crude Oil   | 1.10  |
| Natural Gas | 1.10  |



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## HOME NEWS

### Hint of new legislation if industrial training policy fails

By Mark Jackson, of The Times Educational Supplement

Industry was warned yesterday that it must make the new government training policy a success or risk losing the responsibility for training its own workers.

Under the new system, announced earlier this week, each industry is left with the responsibility for training, to be exercised by individual employers and by its industrial training board or a similar body.

The warning was given by Mr John Monks, head of the TUC's organization department, which is concerned with industrial relations and training matters, at a conference of the British Association for Commercial and Industrial Education in London.

Mr Monks, who served on the task group which devised the new system, said training boards were being told to continue to do their job as before but more effectively, and were being assured of government help if it was impossible to reach their objectives unaided.

Although the TUC would prefer a universal national system of broad-based training funded jointly by employers and the government, it accepted that the scheme was the most practicable way to proceed at present. For the first time there would be clear standards against which to measure the performance of training bodies.

But he added: "Let me make it quite clear. If industrial training boards, individually or collectively, do not match up to these new responsibilities, the Manpower Services Commission will have to consider more far-reaching measures."

If the boards and other joint bodies could not make the arrangements work a new approach and probably new legislation would be needed.

In moving towards a universal broad-based training the TUC accepted that the duration and age limits of apprenticeships would need to be reviewed. It was a field in which there were difficulties which were a matter for individual unions and employers to resolve.

### Mrs Williams seeks agreed aim for school testing

By Diana Geddes Education Correspondent

Warnings of the dangers involved in the development of large-scale testing of school standards were given by three speakers, including the Secretary of State for Education and Science, in London yesterday.

Mrs Williams told the annual conference of the National Foundation for Educational Research that the search for a single, agreed aim of educational performance, was a subtle and delicate area "where we could very easily go very badly wrong".

It was vital that teachers, administrators and other experts should all be involved, and that agreement should be reached on what was to be done.

The Assessment of Performance Unit at the Department of Education and Science is to begin national testing of the performance in mathematics of about 12,000 11-year-olds in May, and of a similar sample of 15-year-olds in November. Tests in English language are planned for 1979, science in 1980, and then modern languages.

The tests are to be repeated at intervals so that school standards can be monitored effectively. Mrs Williams emphasized that the published results would in no case give details about individual local authorities, schools or pupils.

Pupils who were chosen for a sample would take only a part of any one test, she said. That would help to prevent undesirable side-effects, such as occurred with the 11-plus when some teachers began teaching to the tests.

Mr Tom Marjoram, head of

the Assessment of Performance Unit, said some local authorities were already starting to test a sample of pupils, about 10 per cent. The APU is using a 1-2 per cent sample. Blanket testing by an outside agency was wasteful, inefficient, expensive and created deep resentment among teachers, he said.

Mr Marjoram added: "I have yet to meet a head who does not claim that his school is concerned with helping children towards independence, helping them see their role vis à vis others, and their rights and obligations in society, maybe even helping them to make good judgments for themselves, to see the importance of struggling towards a realistic self-concept, a supportive life-style. Some would claim these as the most important outcomes of school days. Should we not strive to assess such outcomes?"

Mr Alfred Yates, Director of the National Foundation for Educational Research, said he was building a picture about some proposed developments and quoted recent experience in Michigan. Blanket testing had been imposed without the approval of the teachers and school performance had been published in league tables, despite a promise not to do so. The teachers were now firmly convinced that the authority's attitude towards the profession was punitive rather than supportive.

### Jubilee fund money 'must reach the unreachable'

By Penny Symon

Money from the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal Fund must get to those young people who are not members of established youth organizations, and who are not used to form-filling and "all the other paraphernalia of the so-called Establishment", the Prince of Wales told youth leaders in London yesterday.

There is concern that the money raised is not getting to many young people who would benefit greatly from it, and is going instead to youth clubs, schools, ambulance cadets, Scouts, Girl Guides, and other organized groups who know how to go about raising money.

"I know this is an extremely difficult thing to achieve", the Prince said, "but I do have to know it can be done. Therefore, I am relying on you to help me by concentrating on the more radical, imaginative schemes which are designed to reach the previously 'unreachable'."

The appeal has so far raised £12.5m: £6m has been received, and the rest is pledged in covenants over the next nine years. The appeal remains open until April 30. About £450,000 has been allocated to 450 youth projects. The rest goes into a capital fund, the income from which will be used by the Queen's Silver Jubilee Trust to support similar enterprises in future.

"The trust is now about to embark on what could be a most useful exercise", the Prince said. "I want to show everyone what the young can do, given half a chance. The motivation is there, and what we have got to do is to channel it in the most useful directions."

If a project involved young people in developing their sense of responsibility and their talents and led them to make a useful contribution by serving others in the community "it is certainly eligible for support".

But it would not be possible to fund all the projects submitted, particularly during the early days when income from the trust was building up.



Militant miners lobbying members of the union's executive in London yesterday.

### 'Threat' of institutional psychiatry described at mental health meeting

By Annabel Ferriman

Institutional psychiatry is perhaps the greatest threat to the freedom of people in modern Western democracies, Professor Thomas Szasz, Professor of Psychiatry at the State University of New York, told a London mental health symposium yesterday.

"The right to liberty is denied to free people in free society more often on psychiatric grounds than on any other", he said. In such societies many more people were deprived of their liberty by being incarcerated in mental hospitals than in prisons. Voluntary psychiatric interventions were crimes against humanity.

Professor Szasz was speaking at a symposium sponsored by the Church of Scientology. Expounding views that have made him well known internationally through such books as *Myths of Mental Illness* and *Manufacture of Madness*, he said that if people wanted to harm themselves they should be allowed to do so. If they wanted to harm others they should be treated under criminal law.

"Self-injurious behaviour cannot justify loss of liberty, however much loss may be rationalized", he continued. In such cases, the state, the family and the medical profession must remain content with offering help, it must eschew forcing help on unwilling persons and, indeed, ought to be prevented by law from doing so. Freedom entails the right to make the "wrong" choice.

"Dangerousness to others, especially if it entails overt acts, is the best justification for restraining and punishing persons by means of criminal sanctions. Use of such sanctions to the concept of mental illness, which he regarded as a metaphor or a myth. He felt in general, however, that people's concepts of mental illness affected their attitudes to psychiatric coercion.

"When shall we recognize that the institutions that legitimize and the individuals who dispense compulsory psychiatric measures perform the same functions of social control in both free and totalitarian societies?" he asked. In the United States 50 to 60 per cent of mental health patients were there involuntarily.

His case was answered by Dr Anthony Clare, a psychiatrist at the Maudsley Hospital, London, and author of *Psychiatry in Dissent*. He thought the disease model could be usefully applied to psychiatric disturbances, particularly the severer forms.

"We do not know the cause of serious mental illnesses any more than nineteenth-century physicians knew the causes of tuberculosis or syphilis", he said. "What we do know is that the serious mental illnesses of schizophrenia and manic depressive psychosis can be identified, can be treated, and in some instances can be cured."

The issue of compulsory admissions to hospitals and treatment arises in only a small proportion of these cases. Only a tenth of patients in mental hospitals are there involuntarily.

### Consumers' group opposes food price protection

By Hugh Clayton

The Consumers' Association will oppose any attempt by Britain to shield itself with purely national measures from food price rises that will be required by EEC rules next year.

Mr William Roberts, head of the European unit of the association, said yesterday. It would oppose any protective measure, such as the present EEC-financed butter subsidy, that threatened to harm consumers.

Mr Roberts said the association would oppose any attempt by Britain to shield itself with purely national measures from food price rises that will be required by EEC rules next year.

He was speaking at a meeting in London of the Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs (Buc), the European confederation of consumer groups, about EEC farm policy.

### Paralysed patient dreads loneliness



Mr Harrison with his only means of communication.

Mr Sydney Harrison, aged 54, who suffers from paralysis and has spent six years on a bedside respirator, has complained in a letter to a Manchester newspaper that he is kept alone in a hospital room without company. He adds: "If the authorities responsible for moving me here do not do something quickly I want to end it all."

Mr Harrison, a former engineer, suffers from a neurological defect and can communicate only through an electric machine he works by winking his right eye. He was moved five weeks ago to the new Budechurch Lodge unit at Withington Hospital from Maudsley Hospital, Manchester, where he had constant attention.

### Murder case man freed to stand trial

From Our Correspondent Sheffield

Ian Adams, aged 27, pleaded not guilty at Sheffield Crown Court yesterday to a murder committed more than eight years ago. Since then, the jury was told, Mr Adams had spent most of his time in Rampton mental hospital at Retford, Nottinghamshire.

He was found unfit to plead when he stood in the same dock at Sheffield Assizes in October, 1969, charged with the murder of his great-aunt, Mrs Frances Mallett, aged 77, a widow, who was found strangled at her home at Stanley Terrace, Maltby, near Rotherham.

Mr David Savill, QC for the Crown, told Mr Justice Boreham that suspicion for the crime fell on Mr Adams, then aged 18, and he was charged with her murder. Mr Adams' solicitors served written notice of an alibi.

While he was in Leeds prison hospital awaiting trial, it became apparent that his mental condition had deteriorated to such a degree that he would be unfit to stand trial. Later it improved to a point where he was fit to stand trial. He was released by the Home Secretary to do so.

Mr Justice Boreham said that the evidence against Mr Adams was "strong and clear".

Mr Adams, who is now 27, was released by the Home Secretary to do so.

### Man got £10,290 by deception

Mark Lloyd, aged 23, of Priors Dean, Peterfield, Hampshire, was convicted at Inner London Crown Court yesterday of obtaining £8,240 and £2,050 by deception and of forging documents.

He was speaking at a meeting in London of the Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs (Buc), the European confederation of consumer groups, about EEC farm policy.

### Battling bards of the bristle board

From Tim Jones Llantwit Major

In a performance of skill and stamina four Welshmen secured the darts world cup for the principality last weekend by beating teams from all over the world.

They won the World Masters title at Wembley with tungsten darts valued at £21 a set. Their victory was not surprising, for the darts fever that is sweeping Wales rivals in intensity the religious revival of old. Throughout the land teams of men descend on public houses to play in leagues that are as keenly contested as those for rugby.

While chapels close and become bingo halls, public houses are sustained by the darts league. To throw a dart well in Wales means something. A man may beat his wife or be heretical and prefer soccer to rugby, but if he throws a neat arrow at the pig-bristle board all is forgiven.

The new status is personified by the captain of the Welsh team, Mr Alan Evans, whose coordination of hand and eye has made him as famous as a winner of the chair at the National Federation of Darts.

Although only 28, Mr Evans is already what is known as "a legend in his own lifetime", to be emulated by the young and respected by the old. He secured his darts world cup title when he won the World Masters individual title. He was born in the Rhondda, where he lived in a pub, which gave him a certain advantage. He maintains that his skill is natural and cannot be readily learnt.

The uninitiated would be amazed at the money and organization that go into modern darts. Top players like Mr Evans can earn up to £15,000 a year as they travel the world participating in tournaments.

Specialist magazines strive to ensure that players are informed of the latest developments and equipment available to them. One, *Dart World*, attempts to help players in all facets of the game and contains an advice column written by "Dart Doc".

Llantwit Major, in the Vale of Glamorgan, is a typical example of darts fever. There are more registered darts players in the town than there are churches.

One pub, the King's Head, boasts six teams and sets aside one evening a week for the women to throw. The landlord, Mr Henry Burford, is not apologetic about darts: "This is the social centre and darts is an enjoyable, inexpensive form of relaxation."

Others are less flattering and equate the growing popularity of darts with the decline of the cultural life of the principality. In his book, *A Welsh Eye*, Mr Gwyn Thomas, author and broadcaster, states:

"Llanelli, in the fourth and fifth centuries was one of the world's most eminent centres of learning. Princes came here from every corner of Europe to sit at the seat of the entry schoolmaster. Today Llanelli is intellectually one of the poorest of the principality. If princes came they would come only to sit and play darts."

### Crime 'affecting recruitment'

Crime and vandalism at Essex University are so rampant that it is adversely affecting student recruitment as well as the quality of living, Professor Anthony Brooke, the pro vice-chancellor, says.

In the campus newspaper *Wispurhoe* he lists cars, motor cycles and bicycles as being highest on the theft list.

### Liability increased

British Rail is to increase the level of general liability for accompanied and passenger luggage in advance from £50 to £100 and the limit of liability for left luggage from £25 to £100 from January 1.

### £17,000 paid for German bureau-cabinet of 1730

By Geraldine Norman Sale Room Correspondent

Two fine pieces of German furniture were sold at Christie's yesterday to a German collector who is said to be building a private museum in Hamburg. It was the same collector who bid \$65,000 at a Christie's sale last spring for a German blue-lacquered rococo cabinet; it was refused an export licence and has gone to the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Yesterday he spent £17,000 (estimate £15,000) on a kingwood bureau-cabinet attributed to Martin of Bohme, a cabinet maker of German work of that date, especially that of Bohme's important Berlin workshop.

His second purchase was a north German walnut and ebony armchair, a massive piece of the late seventeenth century, for £8,000 (estimate £1,200 to £1,500). Other high prices included a Louis XV kingwood and parquetry commode by Garzier, sold to Parridge for £8,000 (estimate £2,500 to £3,500), and a French nineteenth-century bureau à cylindre with elaborate landscape marquetry, sold for £7,800 (estimate £5,000 to £6,000). The sale totalled £35,800, with 12 per cent unsold.

On Wednesday night Christie's held a small sale of contemporary paintings totalling £292,860, with 38 per cent unsold. An unnamed institution was the main buyer, paying £40,000 (estimate £30,000 to £50,000) for Warhol's "Suicide" (purple jumping man), £13,000 (estimate £15,000 to £20,000) for Twombly's "Untitled" of 1963 and £25,000 (estimate £3,000 to

£12,000) for Tom Wesselmann's "Great American Nude, No 108". Sotheby's yesterday offered two long seasons devoted to Impressionist and modern paintings, drawings and sculpture, totalling £84,895, with 10 per cent unsold. The most unusual feature of the sale was a group of 46 Neo-Impressionist paintings and watercolours from the collection of the late Jean Sutter, of Paris.

While many were small and by less well known artists, they all dated from the brief moment when Pointillism flourished in the wake of Seurat's great experiments. Only five were unsold and prices ranged from £10,500 (estimate £7,000 to £9,000) for a charming kitchen scene by Maximilien Luce, of about 1889, to £100 (estimate £100 to £120) for a Louis XV watercolour, "Les Bœufs de Gas".

Hayot was represented by several pretty, small works priced in the hundreds. The French musées nationaux have been busy pre-empting Art Nouveau treasures in Paris sales this week. On Tuesday they acquired the carved panelling made by Alexandre Charpentier in 1901 for the dining room of the director of the Metropolitan railway for £20,000 (francs £25,136). On Wednesday they acquired the wax models, moulded with birds, prepared by René Laque for two glass vases that were never produced. They cost 2,000 and 3,500 francs (£227 and £443).

Sotheby's silver sale yesterday made £36,730, with 8 per cent unsold. Glenside's coin sale made £145,384, with 1 per cent unsold. A sale of important jewels held by Sotheby's in New York on Wednesday made £74,883, above the high estimate for the sale, with 12 lots unsold.

### Auction in aid of Stubbs fund fails to reach target

By Our Sale Room Correspondent

An auction in aid of the Stubbs fund at the Tate Gallery last night just failed to raise the extra money needed to buy "Haymakers" and "Reapers". About £31,000 was raised towards the £40,000 needed, but the gallery is left with unsold goods in hand that will probably make up the difference.

The deadline for purchasing the pictures, whose total purchase price is £774,000, is December 31. The Friends of the Tate have promised to raise £25,000, which is available until March. In addition, there are policies of about £20,000 that are not yet realised. A "Haymakers" by J.M.W. Turner, given by Paul Mellon, the American millionaire collector of British art, was sold for £28,000. Three others, presented by him, including a "Reaper" and a "Gleaner", failed to sell.



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*Bruny Steele*



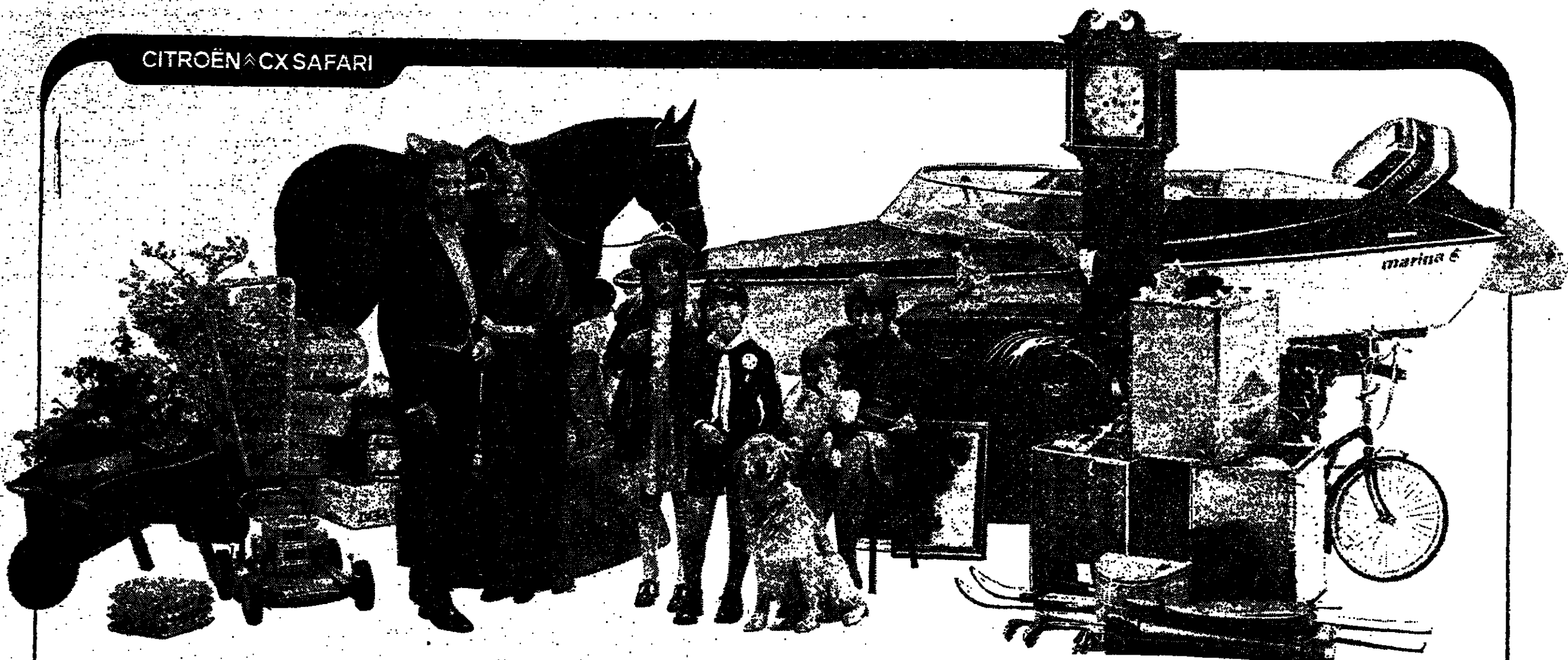
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Yet even without its aesthetic appeal, the Citroën Safari would still have few equals. On opening the rear cargo door, you are confronted by 75.16 cu.ft. of luggage space, with the rear seat folded down. As might be expected, a cavity this large can swallow a vast amount of tea chests, furniture, fertilizer bags or whatever.

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### THE COUNTRY ESTATE YOU NEED.

Yet even when the Safari is loaded up with nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a ton of impedimenta, it still handles like a thoroughbred. This is due in no small part to Citroën's unique self-levelling hydropneumatic suspension system. Hydropneumatic suspension spreads the weight of the load evenly throughout the car, so that it sits level on the road whether it's fully loaded or not. As a result, handling and steering remain impeccable at all times. The self-levelling suspension also makes for easier towing, as the tow bar remains at a constant height from the road. As a result, your horse-box, caravan, motor-boat or trailer won't swing wildly about. And neither, of course,

will the tow bar hit the ground on sharp hills and dips.

And for those rough country journeys to a favourite trout stream or grouse moor, the hydropneumatic system once again comes to your assistance. The suspension can literally be raised by the use of a lever beside the driver, thus increasing the Safari's ground clearance so that it can glide over those deeply rutted tracks and trails.

### THE TOWN CAR YOU NEED.

Meanwhile, back in the concrete jungle, the Safari is equally at home. VariPower steering is standard, a point best appreciated when parking in confined spaces. The Safari is one estate car in which your parking expertise does not depend on the strength of your arms. VariPower steering also gets progressively firmer the faster you go, so long-distance motorway driving is effortless, and totally safe.

Now, what about the Driver.

Looking at most big estate cars you would think that driving is meant to be endured rather than enjoyed. Citroën have always given that philosophy short shrift. So the Safari has performance figures that push other estates well into the carhorse category. A top speed of 109 mph for instance. And all-round ventilated disc brakes for instantly responsive deceleration.

Features such as the advanced disc brakes allied with the Safari's total safety engineering all help to make the Safari one of the safest cars ever built.

### THE LUXURY CAR YOU HAVE ALWAYS WANTED.

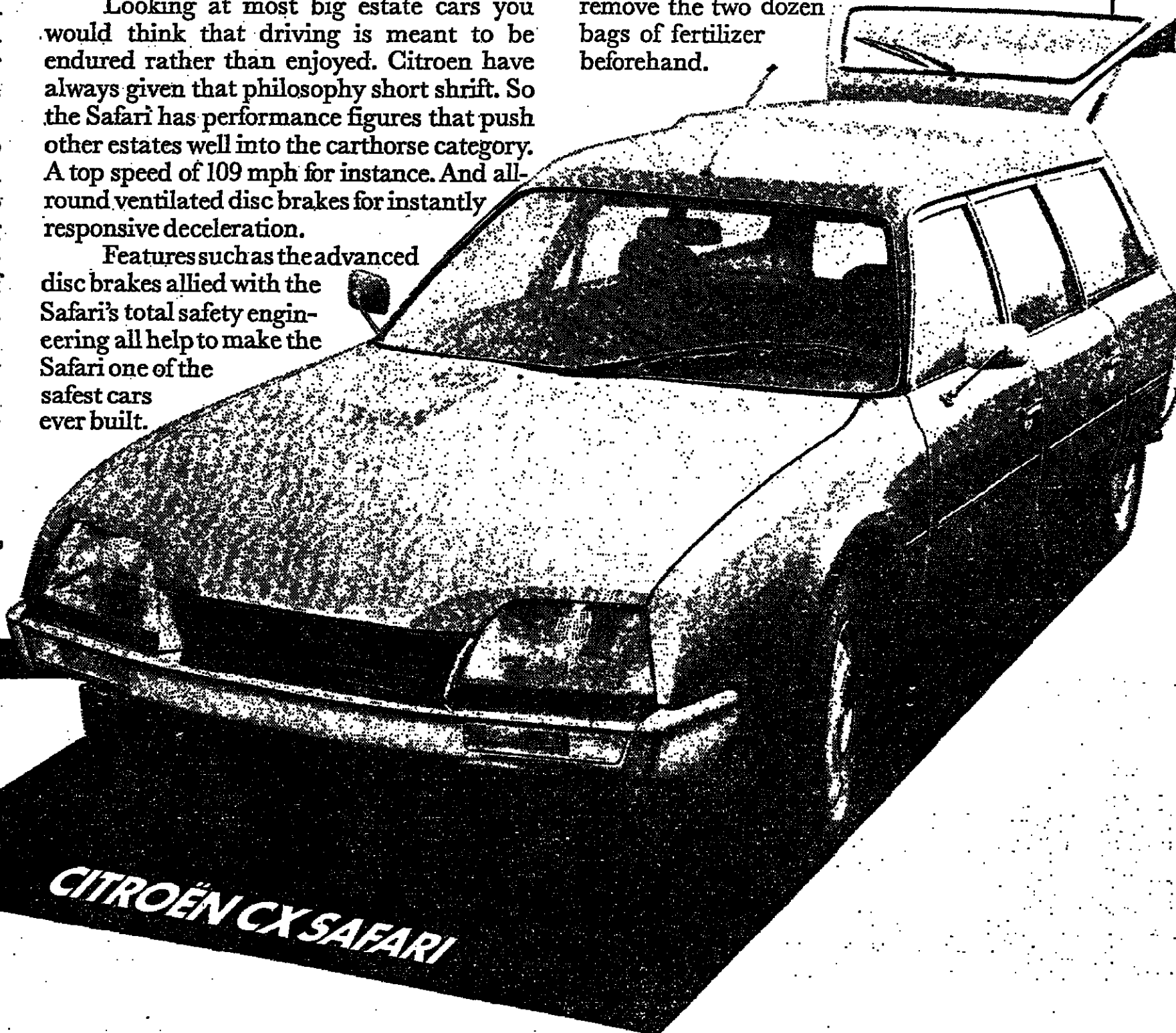
The Safari's economy too, will keep the driver smiling. A highly respectable 29.4 mpg at a constant 56 mph for the petrol version, a skin-flint 44.1 mpg with the civilised diesel.

And all the while both driver and passengers will be enjoying the kind of ride and comfort that many cars thousands of pounds more expensive cannot quite equal. For example, luxurious jersey cloth upholstery is standard. Or, at no extra cost, you can order Boxline upholstery (ideal for sweet-loving children and mud-loving dogs!).

And again, at no extra cost, you will find electric front windows, fully adjustable reclining front seats, cigar lighter. And so on, and so on.

With such luxury clothed in a body of such grace, the Safari would not look out of place pulling up outside The Royal Opera House for a first night of "Aida".

Always provided, of course, that you have remembered to unhitch the caravan and remove the two dozen bags of fertilizer beforehand.



CITROËN CX SAFARI



## HOME NEWS

# Multiracial school in drab area is pace-setter

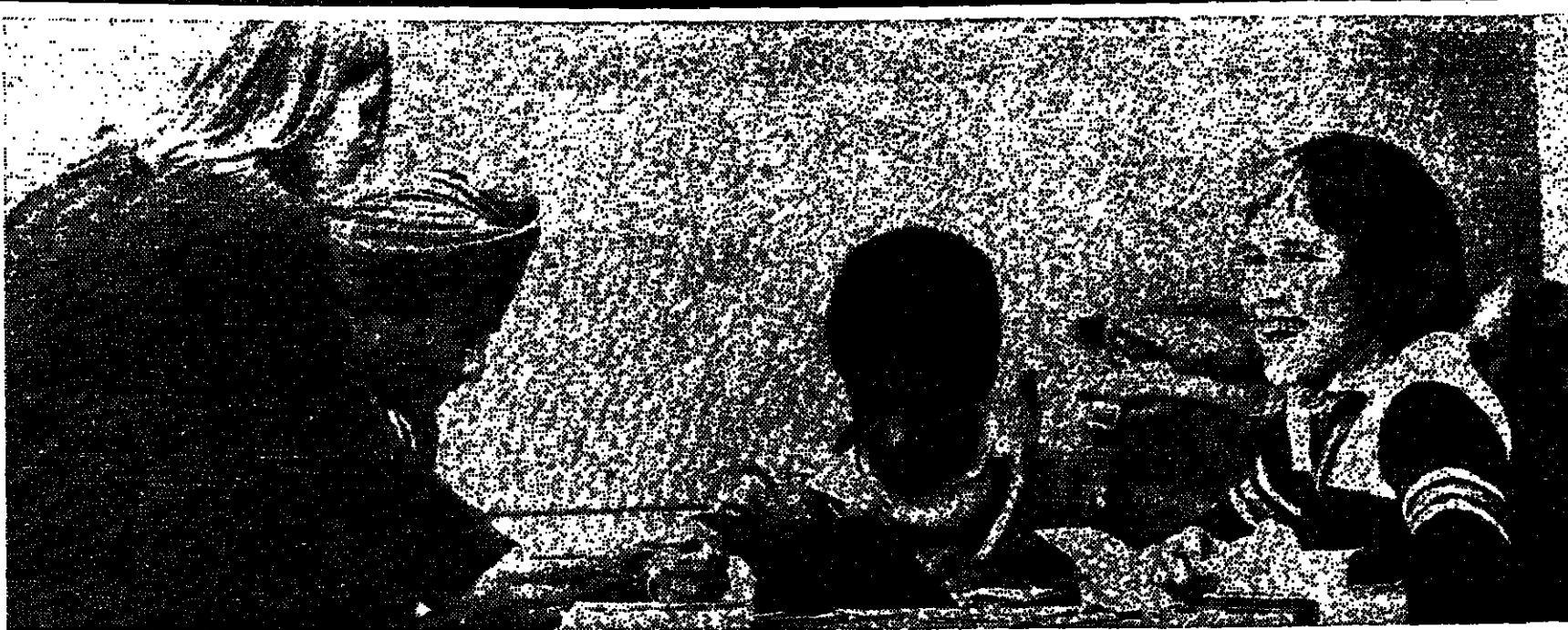
By Arthur Osman

Coventry is afflicted by serious unemployment and attendant factors but in one field it is setting a forceful pace that has aroused the admiration and curiosity of local authorities elsewhere.

The Sidney Stringer School and Community College in the inner-city area of Hillfields has been open for five years. It is by far the brightest place in a uniformly drab multiracial, worn-out working class district around it. Its achievements in academic and cultural matters has led to it becoming a pace-setter in a so far restricted field in urban Britain. Only Manchester and Leicester have similar establishments and they were glad of the opportunity last month of seeing how the place works so well and achieves so much.

The number of its CSE, "O" and "A" level passes and university places would be the envy of any school in far more affluent areas. They have been achieved against a background that includes up to 40 per cent single-parent homes or others with a variety of emotional and domestic difficulties.

The school has 1,400 pupils aged from 14 to 19. There are 800 Asians, 150 West Indians,



A multiracial scene in a classroom at the Sidney Stringer School and Community College, Coventry.

and a sprinkling of Chinese. The remainder are white. Only about a hundred are indigenous white Coventry children who in the first and second years are now far outnumbered by indigenous blacks.

The school has 134 staff and is open seven days a week from 8.30 am to 10 pm. Its services to the community include a creche with nursery nurses for the children brought by about 30 parents who attend at day-time classes of their own or sit in with their children.

Child care is the most popu-

lar daytime class for adults followed by English "as a foreign language", German, cookery, typing and upholstery.

The school has two large gymnasiums, three squash courts, a theatre with more than 200 seats and two cinemas.

The school's academic progress in the past five years has seen children who were 12-plus failures first gaining 593 CSE passes leading to 1,182 this year including 232 grade one passes. The school was above the national average this year with an A-level pass rate of 76

per cent. Seventeen of its 19 applicants obtained university places to read medicine, law, engineering and English. A landmark was the sending of its first girl student to study for a nursing degree and the first girl to obtain an engineering apprenticeship.

Mr Carlton Duncan, aged 37, the deputy headmaster, is particularly pleased with the 100 per cent law passes. He introduced the subject to the curriculum when he arrived from Brent two years ago.

The continued advance of the school and its role as a focus for the community has been made possible by the extraordinary devotion of an integrated staff many of whom are willing to work up to 16 hours a day. They include 10 Asians. Their voluntary involvement extends beyond school to belonging to the 10 neighbourhood group associations and acting as advisers and counsellors to parents in the home.

One of the main difficulties which they are beginning to

surmount is that of Asian parents who expect the school to support their traditional view that a girl's aspirations should go no further than an early marriage. Other matters that have required patient explanation to obtain a measure of understanding are the lack of school uniforms, streaming and corporal punishment.

Mr Bruce Pearce, chairman of the governors and a Coventry councillor, believes that the school is an example to the whole country. He expects more success in the future.

## A local Labour party considers the National Front

### Lewisham leader in favour of caution at next election

By Craig Seton

The Labour Party's controversial television broadcast on Wednesday attacking the National Front has brought to the fore what has been a dilemma, nationally and locally, over the way the party should respond to the Front's increasing threat to its vote in inner-city areas with large coloured communities.

While some local parties may feel that the broadcast of a forthright condemnation of the Front has signalled the end of a period of confusion in which it was often regarded as unwise even to acknowledge the Front's growing support, at least one important local party is still casting around for the right response.

It is in Lewisham where, on August 13, a National Front march was surrounded by serious street fighting when counter-demonstrators attempted to stop it. The controlling Labour group on the borough council, having had four months to assess the repercussions of that day, and facing an election next May, is already coming to the uncomfortable conclusion that the Front's loss, little and gained significantly from the clash and its aftermath.

The Labour group is aware that many of its 59 seats (the Conservatives hold the remaining 11) are already seriously threatened by the opposition, but the activities of the Front and, in particular, the political consequences flowing from August 13 have added a new dimension. It therefore sees its response to the Front in the run-up to the election as critically important.

The Front proposes to put up 40 candidates in the elections and expects to come second in several, behind Labour. Twenty of the contested seats will be in Deptford, where in a ward election last year the combined vote of the Front and the equally right-wing National Party exceeded that for the successful Labour candidates.

Mr Andy Hawkins, leader of the Labour group, said yesterday that he did not want the local party in direct confrontation with the Front and, from that point of view, the party's political broadcast had been too strongly worded.

He said: "I do not think a campaign against the Front should be played so hard. I am in favour of expelling the Front for what it is, its racial policies and threat to democracy, but we should avoid

anything which gives offence to the non-aligned. In our local circumstances in electoral terms we might do more harm than good in giving the Front publicity."

The violence of August 13 had strengthened the prejudices of those Lewisham people who had some sympathy with the Front and, while the controlling Labour group had attempted to have the march stopped, there were signs that some local people associated the party with the violence. It had led to increased support for the Front and a more active membership.

Opinions had polarized, and racial tensions, it appeared, had increased. Mr Robert Edmonds, the National Front's Lewisham organizer, claimed yesterday that since the march local membership had increased significantly, but said he was forbidden by headquarters to give figures.

Mr Roger Norman, editor of the South East London Mercury, said August 13 was still fresh in the memory of Lewisham people. "It really shocked them," he said. Some attempts had been made to repair the damage to race relations by holding multicultural events.

Leading article, page 17

## Liberals campaign to cut taxes

From Our Correspondent Glasgow

The Liberal Party's tax reforms are the subject of a Scottish Liberal Party campaign, which opened in Glasgow yesterday under the slogan "axe tax".

Mr John Pardoe, the party's economic affairs spokesman, said they are an important ingredient of the pact with Labour.

"The Liberal Party would be right in making them a pact-breaking matter," he said, making clear that Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, must include the tax reforms in his next Budget. What his party was calling for, he said, was a total recasting of the British taxation system.

Mr Pardoe is demanding that Mr Healey should reduce the standard and upper rates of income tax and, in particular, cut the standard rate of tax by 5p in the pound from 34p to 29p. He admitted that the Chancellor had made some concessions and "appears to be utterly convinced both in public statements and private talk that income tax was a nuisance, and that the higher rates would have to be brought down".

The Liberal Party was prepared to carry its commitment for tax reductions to the ultimate stage; that it would not perhaps want to carry on with the pact after the Budget in April if Mr Healey did not reduce taxes to about the figures he was proposing.

He saw the reduction of the standard rate from 34p to 25p in the pound as a first step towards the Liberal Party's target of 20p in 1979.

The highest rate of income tax must be reduced from 83p to 60p in the pound as a first step towards our target of 50p in 1979," he said. "The reduction in the standard rate to 25p will cost £4,200m at 1977 levels of income. The reduction and restructuring of the higher rates will cost £380m. A reduction in the investment income surcharge from 15 per cent to 10 per cent will cost £100m, a total of about £4,700m. Some people are amazed at this, during the Chancellor is also surprised, and embarrassed."

The money to meet such reductions would come from increased taxes on expenditure. The Liberal's tax reform plan will be published next month to enable industry to have discussions with the Board of Inland Revenue.

The Arts Council has launched a scheme to help composers. It will take the form of two bursaries of up to £4,500 and six of up to £2,500. Previous direct support for composers has usually been in the form of commission fees, which the council has been awarding since 1965. In 1976-77 awards to composers totalled £62,371.

The closing date for completed applications is January 13 and decisions will be reached the following month. Intending applicants should write to the Music Officer (Bursaries) 105 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AT, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. The scheme excludes jazz composition, which will be treated separately.

## Arts Council bursaries to help composers

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## Hospital-home 'deals' on elderly people condemned

Old people's homes and hospitals sometimes operated reciprocal arrangements that were impractical and unjustified, the Rev Frank Gibson, director of the social responsibility department of the Church of Scotland, said in Edinburgh yesterday.

When a home asked if one of its patients could be admitted to hospital it would be told: "We will take one if you will take one of ours who is ready

for discharge." The arrangement arose because there was great demand both for beds for geriatric patients in hospitals and for home accommodation for the elderly.

He was speaking at a news conference in Edinburgh for improving the work of voluntary organizations and creating a new partnership between voluntary organizations and state social services.

## Maudling action can go ahead

Mr Justice May ruled in private in the High Court yesterday that Mr Reginald Maudling is entitled to go ahead with a claim for exemplary libel damages against the Daily Mirror and a journalist, Mr Maudling's solicitors said.

Mr Maudling alleges that he was libelled in an article by Mr Richard Sear published on the front page of the Daily Mirror on October 20, 1976.

## Search for fisherman

A search was launched yesterday for Mr Kevin Precious, aged 31, of Carr's Meadow, Willemore, Hampshire, who disappeared after a cattle overturned. Two others were rescued.

## Robbins 20 years on

Mrs Shirley Williams, MP, looks back to the Robbins report and forward to the 1990s, in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today. Peter Scott talks to the French historian, Fernand Braudel, and Professor Ralf Dahrendorf puts the case for allowing laymen a voice in university government.

## Correction

The mobility allowance for disabled people will be increased from November, 1979, annually in line with the consumer price index, not with either prices or earnings as the Department of Health and Social Security originally stated.

## Call for one body to rule on rural areas dispensing

By Our Health Services Correspondent

Differences between the medical and pharmaceutical professions over the dispensing of medicines should be settled by a new independent statutory body, a committee that has been studying the difficulties for two years says in its report, published today.

The approval of this national joint committee of three doctors, three pharmacists and three laymen under an independent chairman would be necessary before any significant changes were made in a rural area.

Changes that would always require the committee's approval would be: any proposal by a chemist to begin NHS dispensing; by a medical practice to begin dispensing or extend its area, except as at

present for some patients with serious difficulties.

Since the committee of inquiry was set up in October, 1975, the professions have operated under which doctors do not extend their dispensing in an area served by a pharmacy, and chemists acted similarly. The agreement will end in April.

The detailed recommendations will be considered by the general practitioners committee of the British Medical Association, the Pharmaceutical Society and the Pharmaceutical Services negotiating committee.

Nearly three million patients in rural areas have their medicines dispensed by doctors because there are no chemist's shops. Report on dispensing in rural areas (RHS 515, Hamlyn House, Bletchington and Castle, London, SE1 6TE).

## Changes in personal social services body

By Pat Healy Social Services Correspondent

The needs of elderly and handicapped people rather than children will be reflected in the composition of the new Personal Social Services Council, to be announced before Christmas. The council is being changed after completing its first three years' work.

Its impact so far has been disappointing compared with the original role envisaged for it as an independent body, critical of government and helping to develop the social services. But it has produced a series of impressive reports that have undoubtedly had an effect, notably on residential care and intermediate treatment.

The council has been hampered by a budget limited because of public spending cuts, which has meant that it could employ only two thirds of its staffing establishment.

It has mounted two regional conferences so far in the wake of its report on intermediate treatment, a term that embraces all kinds of help for delinquency and other children at risk, between removing them from home at one extreme, and leaving them under the occasional supervision of social workers at the other.

The conferences have brought together social services and education staff to discuss the implications of the council's report.

Three more conferences are planned for the new year, two in Wales and one in Gloucestershire, which will continue the process. One proposed in the air is that a coordinating body should be set up to monitor initiatives in intermediate treatment, perhaps including those that might result from the new granting trust that Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, has announced to help financing modest local efforts.

## Children to assess TV programmes

By A Staff Reporter

The Independent Broadcasting Authority is to conduct regular audience appreciation surveys among children, after experiments by its audience research department into methods of gauging children's views accurately and economically.

Hitherto the authority has used its assessment system only to determine adults' views on programmes.

The experiments and the thinking behind the decision to seek children's views on their own programmes are set out by Mr Peter Dannheisser, the authority's senior research officer, in its quarterly journal. It is thought that surveys will be made about four or five times a year, he says; they will include a selection of programmes that, though not specifically designed for children, appeal to many of them. The *Muppet Show* is an obvious example; there will also be such action/adventure programmes as *Man from Atlantis* and *The Bionic Woman*.

Those developments are the exception rather than the rule, however, and probably owe as much to the enthusiasm Mr Ennals has shown for intermediate treatment as to the resources the council has been able to devote to them.

Working groups established by the council cover such diverse fields as consumer participation, people with handicaps, and manpower resources in the voluntary social services, as well as priorities for spending, residential care and intermediate treatment. It is likely to make significant impact in the new council is concerned with collaboration in community care.

It is studying the working relationships between people providing help in the home, field social work, and care within both the health and social services, particularly for the elderly and mentally ill.

The group's report is expected to reach Mr Ennals in the new year. It will propose a joint health and social services group to study better collaboration between the two services, both to improve the care offered to the elderly and mentally ill and to ensure that available resources are spent effectively.

The one large group placing an increasing demand on the social services that has not yet been considered by the council is one-parent families. A report on such families has been produced, but not published, it is understood, as it has criticised the lack of response by the Government to proposals by the *Finer Committee on One-Parent Families*.

Controversial reports are expected in the new year, however, from the consumer participation working group, which has mounted a series of studies in London boroughs. It has found a marked reluctance by councillors to take up cases on behalf of clients of the social services.

## ITV defend Christmas film repeats

By Kenneth Gosling

Christmas on independent television will be more than a match for BBC schedules; programme controllers from Yorkshire, Manchester, Birmingham and London said yesterday. Reservations had been expressed on Monday by Mr Anthony Pearson, chairman of the advertising agency Media Circle, who said that ITV did not appear to be very interested in challenging the BBC.

Mr Paul Fox (Yorkshire) pointed out that as Christmas Day falls on a Sunday for the first time for several years, "we had to have a bit of religion in the evening".

The controllers were not worried that there would be a number of repeats, including two films, *The Guns of Navarone* and *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, and some Christmas editions of such familiar shows as *Just William* (double length), *Coronation Street*, *George and Mildred* and *Crossroads*. Mr Berkeley A. Smith, chairman of the controllers' group, said: "We are repeating from excellence."

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## Seven years' jail for drug courier

Donald Purdie, aged 40, a drug courier in a national network, who was caught with what was thought to be Scotland's largest haul, was sentenced at the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday to seven years' jail.

Mr Purdie, from Eastbourne, Sussex, admitted unlawfully possessing 469g of cannabis resin, worth about £40,000.

## Trawler officer overcome in blast

Mr David Nair, aged 39, the chief engineer of a trawler, was recovering in hospital yesterday after an explosion, and fire on board his vessel in the English Channel on Wednesday.

He was overcome by smoke when fire broke out in the engine room of the *Loyngest* trawler St Patrick, five miles off Dover.

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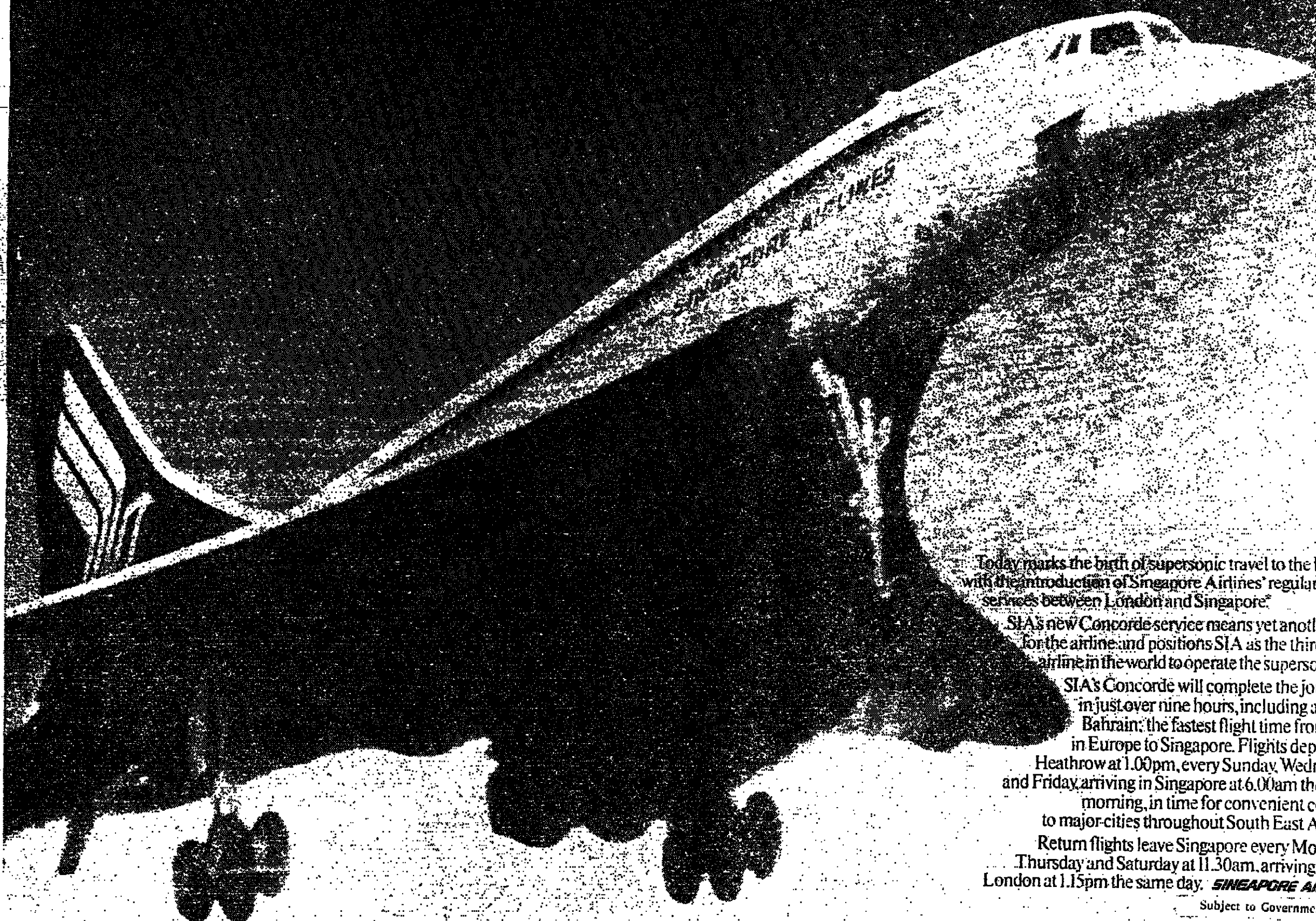
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## WEST EUROPE

# Communists increase pressure for place in Italian Government

From Peter Nichols  
Rome, Dec 8

The Communists have served notice on the ruling Christian Democrats that they will demand a place in the Government unless an administration more to their liking is constructed over the holiday period.

This is the reading given at the Communist headquarters today to the somewhat opaque statement issued last night by the party's executive. The statement contrasted the gravity of the country's crisis with the inadequacies of the minority Government and advanced "the prospect of a government of unity and national solidarity" which would include Communists and Socialists as well as Christian Democrats.

The Socialists and the small Republican Party have already appealed for an emergency government to include the Communists. Now, after this latest Communist decision, the political weight is there to insist on change. Moreover, the threat still exists of a general strike.

Much will depend on the outcome of a meeting between unions and the Government. The meeting has been set for tomorrow but will probably be postponed until Monday to allow the Administration to sort out its internal differences on economic policy.

The main difference inside the Government concerns the size of the deficit in public spending. Senator Gaetano Stannard, the Minister for the Treasury, is fighting hard with some of his colleagues to reduce the deficit, but even he has no hope of keeping it within the limits agreed with the International Monetary Fund.

A sense of deep economic crisis prevails and the need for firm action is generally accepted. But there is still strong resistance among more conservative Christian Democrats to any change which would mean closer relations with the Communists.

The present arrangement is that the Communists helped to draft the minority Christian Democrat Government's programme and have agreed to abstain on votes of confidence. The two leading parties are in effect working closely together in Parliament.

Last night the Senate approved a Rente Bill which was the result of agreement between Christian Democrats and Communists. It was noteworthy that Signor Amintore Fanfani, the Senate's presiding officer, had kind words to say about the results of this co-operation.

His friends were said—probably unfairly—to have pledged to force the resignation of Signor Rosario Nicoletti, the Christian Democrat regional secretary in Sicily.

Signor Nicoletti had been negotiating an agreement under which the Communists would have entered the governing majority in the island's parliament, rather than merely cooperating with the Christian Democrats on specific issues. Conservative Christian Democrats have for the moment put an end to the idea.

The solution of bringing the Communists into the governmental majority but not into the Government has frequently been suggested as the next step at the national level. That explains the determination of some Christian Democrats to settle such a precedent in Sicily.

## France faces threat of widespread power cuts

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Dec 8

A national "day of action" with widespread electricity cuts is being called for by the communist CGT union, which represents more than half the workers in the French power industry. It is asking other unions to join in the protest to coincide with the wage negotiations that are to be held on Friday of next week.

Workers who have been stopping work and causing a series of power cuts all over the

country since last weekend, have been asked to work normally in the meantime. The CGT has said, however, that if nothing positive comes of the talks over the holiday period, the action will be resumed and could be more severe.

Railwaymen, after the collapse of negotiations about modernisation plans which they fear will lead to widespread redundancies, tonight start a four-day strike which will stop an average of 60 per cent of all train services in the country.

## Dr Owen calls for progress on troop cuts

From Henry Satchell  
Defence Correspondent  
Brussels, Dec 8

Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, called for a strong initiative by the West to inject new life into the troop reduction talks with the Warsaw Pact when he addressed the Nato Council meeting here today.

Consultations about a new set of proposals have in fact reached an advanced stage among the Western powers involved in the Vienna negotiations on mutual balanced force reductions (MBFR).

It is understood that Dr Owen had these proposals in mind when he looked forward, perhaps more than ever, to the possibility of an MBFR agreement next year. The talks which began four years ago with the objective of lowering troop levels in central Europe have been bogged down for most of that time.

The basic difficulty is that the Nato powers want the Soviet Union to make the bigger cuts so that both sides could end up with a common ceiling. The Russians insist upon equal percentage reductions which would leave the Warsaw Pact with a significant advantage.

Dr Owen warned the allies that the negotiations would lose all credibility unless some progress was made soon. An MBFR agreement, following a successful Soviet-American treaty on strategic arms limitation, would be a prize to aim for in 1978.

Dr Owen acknowledged that the dialogue with the East at the Belgrade follow-up to the



Dr Owen and Mr Vance exchanging views before the start of the Nato Council meeting.

conference on security and co-operation in Europe, had been disappointing.

It was important that this should be reflected in the final statement, so that the achievements would not be misrepresented. At least the West had been given the opportunity to comment upon the performance of the Soviet Union in implementing the provisions of the agreement reached at Helsinki two years ago.

The final statement should show that the West had been objective in its attitude, without awarding medals or pulling any punches.

On the specific question of the strategic arms limitation talks the Foreign Secretary said

that a SALT-2 agreement would receive the full support of Britain. Critics who seized upon the minutiae of the negotiations should not be encouraged.

He referred to fears that an agreement would allow the Soviet Union to work towards a first strike capability, helped by the superior megatonnage of its strategic weapons.

Exact equivalence in strategic weapons was impossible, and he was satisfied that an important element of the American arsenal would survive such a strike. He had no significant criticism of the way in which Britain had been kept in touch with the negotiations by the Americans.

Brussels, Dec 8.—Some of America's principal European allies want a real say in framing United States policy if the strategic arms limitation talks touch on American nuclear delivery systems based in Europe, according to alliance sources.

Because of this Mr Vance, the Secretary of State, promised at the Nato Council meeting today to maintain close consultation on SALT with Nato partners, the sources said.

They said the desire for prior consultations where Western Europe's vital interest could be affected in the SALT talks was expressed at a private dinner last night between Mr Vance

and the foreign ministers of Britain, France and West Germany. At present, the allies are informed of the outcome of each SALT negotiating session after it has taken place.

The Americans are under pressure from the Russians to include so-called forward-based systems in Europe in a SALT package and the sources said it is clear this issue will have to be discussed by United States and Soviet negotiators.

American officials said Mr Vance promised the council that the United States would continue to resist Soviet pressure to bring its European-based aircraft with nuclear capability under a strategic arms limitation accord.—Reuter.

## French explain Quebec welcome

From Ian Murray  
Paris, Dec 8

France has replied to the Canadian Government's request for clarification about the circumstances surrounding last month's visit of Mr Levesque, the separatist Premier of Quebec.

During the three-day official visit Mr Levesque was received by President Giscard d'Estaing and M Barre, the Prime Minister, and was enthusiastically welcomed by members of the National Assembly.

A report was sent to Ottawa on November 14 by Mr Gerard Pelletier, the Canadian Ambassador in Paris. Based on it, the Canadian Department of External Affairs asked for further clarification from the French Government, particularly on two points.

These were: the status of

the agreed exchange visits between the French and Quebec planned each year; and the exact meaning of the "support" the President offered Quebec in his speech welcoming Mr Levesque.

The French reply is that the Government wants to respect Canadian law as much as its international law and that it wants to develop "fraternal" relations with Quebec.

Without actually referring to the exchange of visits at prime ministerial level the French reply, which went out at the end of last week, has made it clear that its policy towards Quebec is one of "non-interference" and "non-independence".

Levesque writes: In contrast to their New York counterparts, bankers in Britain and Switzerland are taking a "serene" view of events in Quebec, Mr Jacques Parizeau,

the Quebec Minister of Finance and Revenue, said yesterday.

Mr Parizeau was speaking near the end of a week of unofficial financial discussions in Europe.

His Government and Ottawa were working well at present on specific economic issues, he said, despite their constitutional dispute over possible secession by Quebec.

Mr Parizeau would not say whether Quebec would proceed to full independence after the referendum if English-speaking Canada refused an economic association with it, but said he believed "business sense" would dictate an association of some kind.

Moreover, the results of public opinion polls showed that a large minority now existed in both French and English Canada which accepted economic union in the event of secession.

## Butter subsidy for Britain to be phased out

From Michael Horansby  
Brussels, Dec 8

Britain's hard-won Consumer subsidy on butter, financed by the EEC, which reduces the shop price by 8p a lb, would be phased out under proposals adopted in Brussels today by the European Commission.

The proposals form part of the recommended farm price package for 1978-79. They will be submitted to EEC Ministers of Agriculture for a final decision early next year.

They are to be officially unveiled tomorrow by Mr Finn Olaf Gundelach, the Commissioner for Agriculture. The guaranteed price paid to British farmers would rise on average by just over 5 per cent, according to informed sources.

Although the proposed overall increase in EEC farm prices expressed in units of account is no more than 1.8 per cent, the real increase would vary greatly from country to country. This is because of adjustments to the special "green rates" at which the common prices are converted into national currencies.

British farmers would see the highest real increases. In West Germany the increases would average 0.7 per cent and in Italy 3.8 per cent.

One of the most controversial proposals concerns dairy products which would receive a rise of 2 per cent. Mr Gundelach and some other Commissioners had wanted a significantly lower increase to curb future production surpluses, but they were outvoted.

## M Giscard opens Metro link from driver's seat

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Dec 8

President Giscard d'Estaing made his second official journey on the Paris underground this morning, not as a mere passenger as he did on a much publicized trip a few years ago, but at the controls in the driver's cab.

He was inaugurating the new regional express Metro link through the heart of the capital, which will revolutionize Paris transport by connecting up the outer suburbs in the west and the south-east. He insisted on driving 1,000 guests himself from the Opera to Noisy-le-Grand. He had studied a diagram of the instrument panel at the Elysee Palace yesterday.

None of his guests found fault with his driving during the 20 minute journey apart from a rather sharp touch on the brakes at one stage.

Among the political leaders and senior officials travelling in the first coach was M Jacques Chirac, the Mayor of Paris, whom M Giscard d'Estaing invited for a five-minute chat on the return journey between Vincennes and Les Halles. This was another indication of the thaw in their relations brought about by their 45-minute meeting last night, the first in nine months.

In his inaugural speech, the President said the Paris region had the best public transport of all the great cities of the world.

Today's ceremony marked the accomplishment of an ambitious project which has taken 16 years to complete at a cost of more than 5,000m francs (800m). The cost and the enormous technical difficulties involved in burrowing through the cluttered subsoil of the capital caused the Government seven years ago to hesitate before going ahead with the final stretch between the Opera, Les Halles and the Luxembourg which was the key to the whole project.

This does away with the bottleneck of three regional service terminals, and connects the two new express lines at Les Halles in 1979 to St Germain en Laye with the old line of Sceaux to the south-west.

Paris now boasts a regional network totalling 57 miles, capable of carrying twice as many passengers as before, at more than twice the speed, in conditions of far greater comfort.

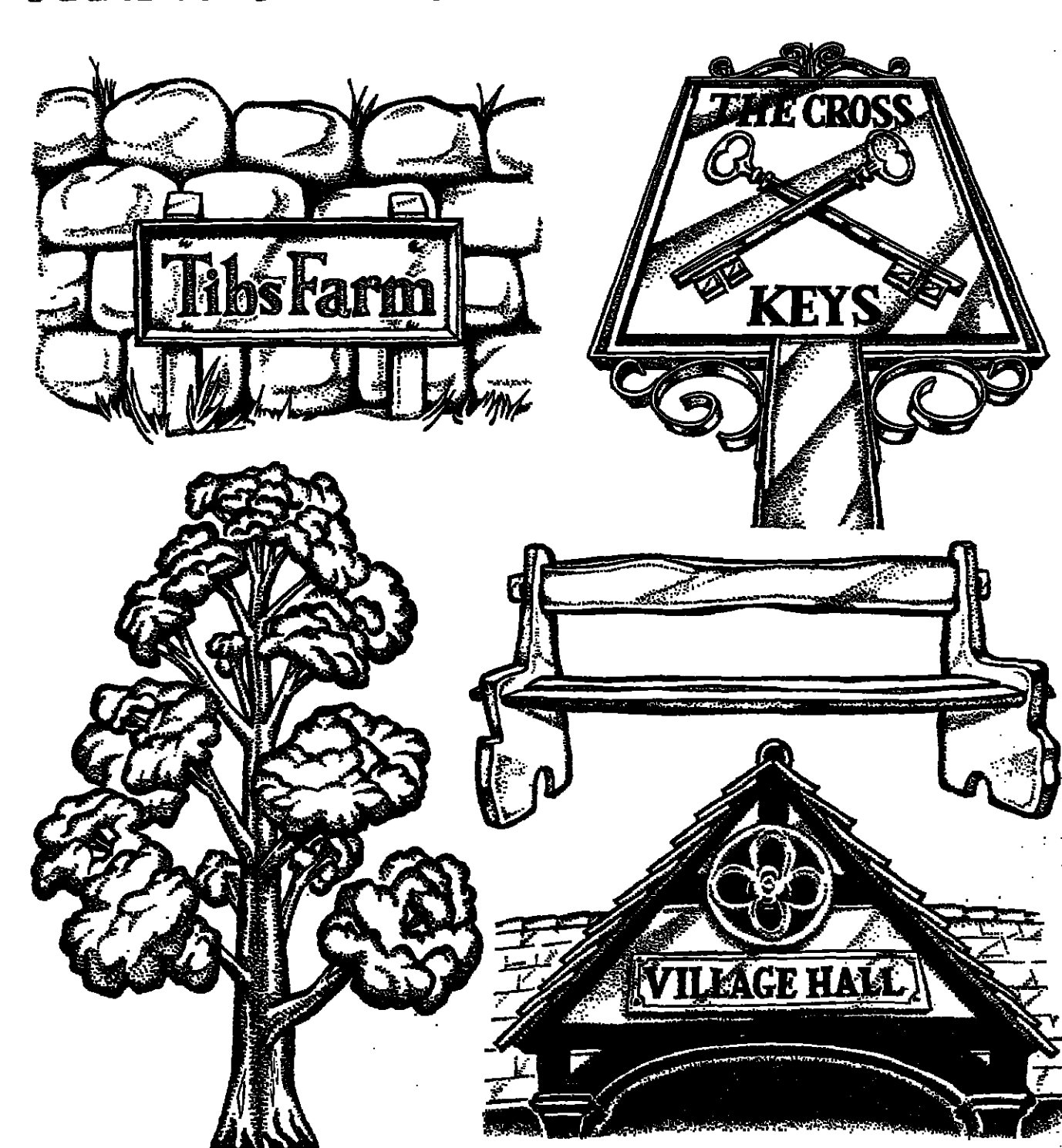
It will cut travelling time by a quarter to a half for several hundred thousands of people who live in the suburbs and travel to Paris each day to work and who have been particularly badly served for transport since the end of the war, with the rapid expansion of the capital into the surrounding country.

It will also relieve the pressure on the Metro network and it is hoped end many of the morning and evening traffic bottlenecks.

For two days travel will be free on all the regional express lines, and exhibitions, concerts and theatrical performances will be staged in almost all its 57 stations.

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Can you imagine what it is like to be alone in the world with no relatives or friends and to be blind?  
This Society brings practical help, comfort and happiness by regular and frequent visits to many such elderly people. Patients with resident Workers to meet their social needs, grants in times of difficulty, and the distribution and transportation of radio sets are some of the additional ways by which help is given. Your help is urgently needed. Please remember this Society in your Will.  
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The Community Bus scheme only works with the co-operation of three groups.  
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The County Council gives the finance and the policy guidance.  
And the community runs the service which, in turn, complements local bus services so that the local bus network is

## Spanish general put under house arrest for writings

From Our Correspondent  
Madrid, Dec 8

Military authorities have placed Brigadier-General Luis Cano Portel, a former chief of army publications, under house arrest for two months and one day for the "serious fault" of publishing an article, attacking the proposed reform of army regulations, in the daily newspaper *El Alcazar* without the approval of his superiors, reports said in Madrid today.

The article, entitled "Bring the regulations up to date! What for?" was published on November 10. The general, signed with a pseudonym, "Sparos".

The article called a proposal to revise army regulations "madness", implying that it was part of a scheme for the "disintegration of the fatherland". The house arrest was imposed into effect last Tuesday, according to informed sources.

In another action, the recently dismissed commander of the civil guard in the eastern province of Seville, Rodolfo Colon, also a right-wing officer has been placed under arrest in a castle near Gerona, according

to the Madrid evening newspaper *Informaciones*.

Three terrorists, believed to be members of the Basque separatist organization ETA, extorted 10m pesetas (£66,000) from a Madrid industrialist by holding him hostage in his own house for 15 hours, it was learnt today.

The threatened to kill the industrialist. They forced him to sign a cheque and write to the end of his bank saying that the person collecting the money was a friend and a leading member of the right-wing Popular Alliance.

Madrid, Dec 8.—About 40,000 Basque nationalists demonstrated in Pamplona today demanding the integration of the province of Navarra into an autonomous Basque region.

A radio station in Bilbao today quoted a communiqué from the Basque separatist organization ETA announcing that it would smash any obstacle to its rule.

In Malaga, the authorities today asked Senator Rodolfo Martin Villa, the Minister of the Interior, to declare the city a disaster area, after three days of rioting and looting

## UN Geneva staff split over continuing strike

From Our Correspondent  
Geneva, Dec 8

Striking United Nations secretarial and technical staff at the Palais des Nations were told by Dr Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary-General, today that the issue of a proposed 17 per cent cut in their pay was being considered by the General Assembly and was thus out of his hands.

A cable had been sent by the staff union at the Palais to Dr Waldheim which proposed a one-day strike unless the United Nations administration agreed to reconsider the pay cut, for which permanent staff are to be compensated by "personal transitional allowances".

The larger, and officially recognized union, the staff council, opposed extension of the strike, pointing out that the "protest and warning" strike had been called for 24 hours only. The two bodies, previously in agreement about coordinating their efforts to protect the interests of the staff, are now openly at loggerheads.

A lengthy meeting called by the staff union this morning to consider a continuation of the strike ended by deciding that it was over, for the time being.

## Mr van Agt is asked to form a Cabinet

From Our Correspondent  
Amsterdam, Dec 8

Queen Juliana has asked Mr Andries van Agt, the parliamentary leader of the Christian Democrats, to form a Government. It is to be a right of centre coalition with the conservative Liberals.

The Queen made her decision after a day of consultations with the leaders of the four main political parties (the Socialists, Christian Democrats, Liberals and Democrats-66) and her principal advisers.

The Liberal-Christian Democratic coalition can be certain of only 70 votes in the 150-seat Parliament, seven left-wing members of the Christian Democratic parliamentary group having refused to approve the pact with the Liberals. There was therefore some confusion as to whether, from a constitutional point of view, the proposed Government could be considered to have a parliamentary majority.

Elephant fished

## IF YOU SMELL GAS-RING US

If you smell gas, remember the simple safety rules:-  
\* Don't smoke or use naked flames.  
\* Don't operate electrical switches—on or off.  
\* Do open doors and windows.  
\* Then check that you haven't left the gas on and unlit—or that a pilot light has not gone out.

If you suspect a gas leak, turn off the supply at the meter—and report the leak. Do this at once.  
The number's in the telephone directory under Gas—and we're on call 24 hours a day.

We'll come quickly and deal with the problem. And if you smell gas at work or in the street, please report it at once. Don't leave it to someone else.



## OVERSEAS

# Palestinian notables to defy PLO threats by visiting Cairo to congratulate President Sadat

From Edward Mortimer  
Gaza, Dec 8

A delegation of 96 Palestinians is to leave here tomorrow for Cairo to congratulate President Sadat on his peace initiative.

It is headed by Sheikh Fakhm al-Khazindar, a local imam (Muslim religious leader) on whom the Israelis have bestowed the title of Imam of Gaza, and also includes a Bedu chief, Mr Fakhm al-Khazindar, and the Mayor of Dair al-Balah, a village at the southern end of the Gaza Strip. The Mayor, Mr Asazi, was one of the nine Palestinian notables who met Mr Sadat in the King David Hotel during his visit to Jerusalem last month.

All three men are regarded by local nationalists as pro-Israeli stooges, and in going to Cairo they may be running some personal risk. The PLO has sent word to Gaza that any Palestinian notable who sets foot in either Amman or Cairo in present circumstances is liable to be killed.

It is apparently for this reason that Mr Rashad Shawa, the Mayor of Gaza, has renounced for the time being his plan to go to Beirut and try to persuade the PLO leaders to change their minds and accept Mr Sadat's invitation to the Cairo conference. Mr Shawa has in the past been regarded as a strong supporter of King Hussein, and would have passed through Amman on his way to Beirut.

Interviewed in his office today, Mr Shawa would say only that "complications" had prevented him from going to Beirut. He pointed out that Jordan and Saudi Arabia were now trying to mediate in the dispute between Egypt and the PLO on the one hand and the PLO on the other. "If things can be solved on this basis it would be to the satisfaction of all," he said.

He confirmed, however, that he did not "see much harm in the step taken by Sadat," and that he thought the PLO had gone too far in its condemnation. But he refused to meet Mr Sadat, the King David, although pressed to do so by Mr Dayan, the Israeli Foreign Minister.

On the Cairo conference Mr Shawa said he thought the PLO should take part, but this was his personal opinion. "I'm with the PLO, I recognize the PLO as our sole representative, and as long as the decision is not to participate I carry it out."

The people of Gaza appear to be generally favourable to Mr Sadat's initiative, hoping that it will result in Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank. But many of the refugees from other parts of Palestine fear it is the prelude to a sell-out.

Both groups are well disaffected towards Egypt, looking back with favour on the Egyptian administration before 1967 even though the standard of living of many has risen since then and for some at least there is greater freedom of movement. Both wages and

prices have risen drastically as a result of the strip's absorption into the Israeli economy, and more especially the Israeli labour market.

Our Cairo Correspondent writes: King Hussein met President Sadat today in an attempt to reconcile Arab disputes over Mr Sadat's peace initiatives, including his visit to Jerusalem last month. Yesterday, the king had talks in Damascus with President Assad of Syria.

King Hussein's mediation is proving difficult as he apparently failed to convince President Assad to change his hostile attitude towards the Egyptian peace initiatives. In fact, a Syrian official said in Damascus last night that Mr Assad had referred in the king's presence to President Sadat's "surrendered visit to the Zionist entity".

Nor is King Hussein finding much of a spirit of compromise in Cairo, for less than one hour before his arrival, President Sadat told 200,000 enthusiastic supporters at a mass rally here that his Arab critics were as "dwarfs, imposters and outcasts".

Riyadh: President Assad arrived here today for a one-day visit to discuss the repercussions of the Sadat initiative with King Khalid. The King embraced him at the airport.

In an interview published in the Beirut weekly Al-Hawadess today, Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia said his country would not recognize Israel even if President Sadat's new policy led to peace. *Foreign Report, page 14*

## Concorde beats Malaysian ban

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

Although Malaysia is still refusing to give it air traffic control rights, the British Airways/Singapore Airlines joint Concorde service from London to Singapore will start today as planned by flying over Indonesia.

British Airways said in London yesterday that it will re-route the supersonic airliner to skirt the Malaysian control zone. It will fly over Indonesia at 46,000ft, paying no penalty in either time or payload, the airline claimed.

Indonesia said yesterday that it had no objection in principle to the Concorde flying through its airspace. British Airways said in Singapore that the offer was made by the Indonesian Government through the offices of the Singapore Department of Civil Aviation.

The Malaysian Ministry of Communications reaffirmed yesterday that its ban on Concorde overflying remained, but gave no reason. Reports that it was worried about the effect of the aircraft on the Malaysian environment were being discounted in London.

It was thought more likely that Malaysia is piqued at the operation by Singapore of Concorde services.

Travelling by way of Bahrain and the new route over Indonesia, the British Airways/Singapore Airlines Concorde will reach Singapore today in nine and a half hours, compared with the fastest subsonic time of 15 hours.



Sir Zelman Cowen: Succeeds Sir John Kerr.

## Australian Governor is sworn in

From Our Correspondent  
Melbourne, Dec 8

Sir Zelman Cowen was sworn in as Governor-General of Australia today as the campaign for Saturday's general election closed. He succeeds Sir John Kerr.

Sir Zelman, aged 58, former Vice-Chancellor of Queensland University, took the oath in a ceremony in the Senate Chamber.

The results of yet another opinion poll today predicted a decisive if not comfortable win for the Government coalition. The poll, commissioned by The Age newspaper, suggested that the coalition could attract 47 per cent of the vote and the Labour Party 32.7 per cent. *Australian campaign, page 16*

## Greeks ask for pillar in British Museum

From Mario Modiano  
Athens, Dec 8

An international meeting to explore methods of preserving the Erechtheion on the Acropolis of Athens, today heard Greek experts call for the restoration of an Ionic column removed from the temple by Lord Elgin and now on display in the British Museum.

The 22ft marble column had supported the north end of the east porch of the Erechtheion, now threatened with rapid decay. This column and one of the six Caryatids of the south porch were part of the Elgin collection. Greek experts believe that the complete reconstruction of the Erechtheion is now vital and urgent if this monument is to survive.

Dr George Dumbas, director of the Acropolis Museum, said the column should be put back in its place in order to reinforce the stability of the building. It would be said as an "aesthetic joy" for those who had seen it in the British Museum to see it in situ.

The Athens meeting has brought together Greek and foreign experts for a discussion of urgent action to save the Erechtheion, one of the most perfect specimens of classical Greek architecture which stands on the north side of the Acropolis.

Fifty foreign specialists of a variety of disciplines—archaeologists, conservation experts, architects, and chemical engineers from 11 countries—are consulting with 70 Greek colleagues on alternative proposals for the preservation of this temple from

the effects of air pollution and exposure to rain.

The Colloquium is considering a detailed report prepared by the Acropolis task force outlining the threats to this monument: the cracks caused to the marble by the oxydation of iron clamps used in earlier restorations, the atmospheric pollution that combines with humidity and rain to turn the marble surface into gypsum and the biological deterioration of the marble caused by lichens.

The task force, composed of Greek experts, recommended the dismantling of part of the Erechtheion to replace the iron clamps and supports by a rust-free alloy such as titanium before reassembling it again.

They had two courses to offer for the protection of the Caryatids: either to remove them to a museum or to encase them in a transparent structure conditioned with nitrogen.

Their report pointed out that both solutions were, in accordance with the Charter of Venice, reversible, so that the Caryatids could be restored to their original condition when exposure was no longer dangerous.

Dr Dombas, who first sounded the alarm on rapid decay, told the meeting: "Some people seem to feel we should let the monument die a natural 'dignified' death. This is tantamount to encouraging suicide."

The Colloquium, which was inaugurated today by Mr George Pylas, the Minister of Culture and Sciences, is to last three days. Its conclusions will help the Greek Archaeological Council in making recommendations to the Government.

## \$1m bribery fines approved by Congress

From David Cross  
Washington, Dec 8

American companies will be liable to fines of up to \$1m (£550,000) for bribing foreign government officials to obtain overseas business under new legislation just approved by the United States Congress.

The Unlawful Corporate Payments Bill was approved unanimously by the House of Representatives yesterday and has been sent to the White House for final endorsement by President Carter. In addition to heavy fines for corporations, individual employees risk fines of up to \$10,000 or five years imprisonment or both.

The new legislation, which also requires companies to maintain full and accurate records of foreign transactions and assets, was approved overwhelmingly by the Senate earlier this week. It follows disclosures during recent years that, in the words of Senator William Proxmire, have shown that corporate bribery overseas is "a significant problem in need of clear legislative attention".

Recent investigations by the Securities and Exchange Commission revealed that more than 300 American companies paid hundreds of millions of dollars in alleged bribes to foreign officials and political parties in Japan, Italy, the Netherlands and other nations.

"The image of American democracy abroad was tarnished," Senator Proxmire said.

## Mr Nkomo pulls out of London talks

By Our Diplomatic  
Correspondent

Mr Joshua Nkomo, joint leader with Mr Robert Mugabe of the Patriotic Front nationalist alliance, has turned down the invitation, which he had accepted earlier, from Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, to come to London for talks on Rhodesia next week.

The announcement came in a statement after talks in Maputo yesterday between Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe, who rejected Dr Owen's offer on Wednesday.

The Patriotic Front leaders refused further discussions until Dr Owen "recommits" himself to the removal of Mr Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, and the dismantling of the Rhodesian Army.

Meanwhile Dr Owen and Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, discussed Rhodesia in Brussels yesterday. Dr Owen said afterwards that they were "running into a few problems". Although the Anglo-American settlement initiative had varied in pace, he said, if it was measured from month to month, steady progress was being made.

If a settlement was to be internationally accepted, it would still have to be within the parameters of the Anglo-American plan. The right way to resolve differences between

the various Rhodesian nationalist groups was by election.

Our Salisbury Correspondent writes: The second round of the internal settlement talks between Mr Smith and three Rhodesian-based African nationalist groups begin here tomorrow.

Both Bishop Abel Muzorewa, leader of the United African National Council and the Rev Ndababingi Sithole, leader of an ANC faction, were absent from last Friday's meeting, which was mainly procedural and lasted 80 minutes.

This time the negotiators are expected to get down to detail. Mr Smith has conceded the principle of universal adult suffrage provided he can in turn obtain safeguards for the whites. The nationalists are said to accept his position and are willing to start bargaining, provided Mr Smith does not try to wriggle out of the one-man-one vote concept.

Bishop Muzorewa said today he was going to the talks only because he believed Mr Smith would abide by this basic commitment. The bishop introduced a new factor today by calling for Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe to be included in the talks although he said that if they refused the UANC would go ahead regardless.

## Terrorist bomb in S African station car park

From Our Correspondent  
Johannesburg, Dec 8

The fourth terrorist bomb in two weeks exploded today near Johannesburg. Nobody was hurt in the blast in a railway station car park at Benoni, 15 miles west of the city.

The South African authorities, normally extremely quick on the draw, have not definitely linked the series of bomb blasts to the African Nationalist Movement, which is puzzling observers.

Today's bomb badly damaged two cars and blew out windows of buildings 400 yards away. The head of railway police, Major-General J. Van Vuuren, said only that his men were investigating the blast but declined further comment.

## Priest and nun on Uganda murder charge

From Our Correspondent  
Nairobi, Dec 8

A Roman Catholic priest and nun are appearing in the Uganda High Court at Fort Portal charged with murdering nine Ugandan girls, members of a "Good Samaritans" organization formed by the priest, who defied the orders of his bishop to disband it.

Ugandan radio today named the priest as Father Paul Kibishanga, and the nun as Sister Canamanta Yakato.

The Bishop of Fort Portal, Mgr Serapio Magambo, was reported to have told the court that he had ordered the Good Samaritans to be disbanded last year because they were annoying people at the local Catholic mission.

## Amnesty publishes its full index of infamy

By David Watts

Amnesty International's annual report, perhaps the world's most comprehensive index of infamy, was published yesterday as one of a number of events to mark the twenty-ninth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In New York the United Nations was presented with a petition of 1,100,000 names from 133 countries calling for the release of all political prisoners on Wednesday.

On Saturday, Mr Thomas Hammarberg, of Sweden, who is chairman of Amnesty International's executive committee, will officially receive the Nobel Peace Prize at a ceremony in Oslo. On Sunday Mr Callaghan, will take part in a Trafalgar Square carol service, organized by Amnesty, by reading extracts from the Declaration of Human Rights.

The Amnesty report, at 352 pages, is the longest and weightiest the organization has ever produced and the organization's reliability is now such, according to Mr David Simpson, director of its British section, that the annual report is much used by governments.

There are those, however, as yesterday's press conference showed, who feel that the organization has yet to achieve the desired balance between coverage of the communist and non-communist worlds.

Mr John Humphreys, head of the research department, while emphasizing the organization's limited manpower and resources, admitted that there probably was an imbalance but this was due largely to the relative inaccessibility of certain countries.

The political situation in Africa is reflected in the report which finds that the torture of political detainees is now reported consistently from Rhodesia, South Africa and South African-administered Namibia.

Amnesty, which campaigns both for prisoners of conscience and the abolition of the death penalty, reported that the number of political prisoners in Rhodesia had increased from 700 to 1,000 during the year while in South Africa the biggest increase in the number of political prisoners for 10 years had been recorded, with more than 400 held on Robben Island alone by the end of May.

Concern was also expressed at the situation in Uganda and at the continued use of the death penalty throughout Africa, with about 60 secret executions for threats to state security in Rhodesia this year and 98 others in Sudan after the abortive coup. Massacres of civilians and assassinations of political opponents have become routine in Uganda, Ethiopia and Equatorial Guinea, the report indicates.

"Landing a large export contract for chemical plant can take a long time. 3 years is not uncommon. So we find it pays to keep ECGD informed of every step right the way through the negotiations.

"This means that they can and do react very quickly when the time comes, without the need for complex briefing.

"It's not 'us-and-them', we work together on a project.

"In fact, if we had an arm's length relationship with ECGD, we just couldn't deal with clients in the way that we have to when facing tough overseas competition. As it is, we're definitely winning."

Mr F.P. Korn OBE is Marketing and Sales Director of Constructors John Brown Ltd, engineering contractors, who recently won a £50m overseas contract for a high density polyethylene plant.



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## Lawyer condemns police cover-up of detainee's fatal injury

On August 19, 1977, he was delivered into the custody of the security police, under the command of Colonel Gassen at Port Elizabeth and detained under the Terrorism Act No 83 of 1977.

The totality of the conduct of the security police seems to me to fit in with an approach to me, and a pattern of interrogation which has certainly not been peculiar to the security police at Port Elizabeth. Although specific evidence was not led at the inquest in this regard, the magistrate could have taken judicial notice of the fact that the lowering and breaking of the spirit by such means, where it is intended to subject a person to interrogation, is a well documented and well known course open to those who are

On September 6, 1977, *The Advocate* published an article about the murder of Mr. Biko. The article stated that Mr. Biko was "pursued at any stage of the process" and that it was "evident to them that Mr. Biko was not only being followed but was being followed in an act of defiance but was not followed by the belief in non-violence with his statement to the police that he was not afraid of the food because he found it repulsive and hoped that by rejecting the food provided, the police might be allowed to purchase food from the black market." This article did not exclude the suspicion that the police, if questioned, may have been able to throw more light on the matter.

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While wrestling they tumbled into tables and chairs. The other officers, hearing the noise from a nearby room, rushed in and saw the policeman brought him Biko and controlled by pinning him to the floor where handcuffs and feet were secured.

It is recalled again: the occasion for the brain injury in the course of falling about. It is strange that the police suspecting Biko of having been drunk, the officer had a bruise on his elbow which on one occasion he said was to his right elbow and on another occasion he said was to his left.

Biko was taken to the hospital and was brought to Room 619 where

cross examination, was that a telephone call was made to the Security Forces Headquarters on September 19, 1974, under the signature of Gousens to the Security Forces Headquarters in Pretoria which referred to an injury which had occurred to Mr. Biko at 10:00 hour, on September 17. Moreover, Mr. Kenridge pointed out that his funeral address, a ritual song, was sung in the presence of his friends in their evidence had failed to disclose was that Mr. Biko's ability to speak was directly affected by the injuries inflicted. It was for all these reasons that the Commission found that at almost every opportunity Colonel Gousens encouraged to convey to the public that Mr. Biko was a drunk champagne. Colonel Gousens

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In short, I was left in no doubt that Mr. Burt died as a result of a blow to the head, the cause of which was one or more unidentified men of the security police at some time prior to and reasonably proximate to the time that the South African Government received the report of his death on September 7, 1977. A blow to the head, no doubt intended on purpose, has caused brain damage which is fatal in the long run, and which may result in death within a few hours of injury, the full and true facts have been given to the doctors, and there had been allowed to be a full and complete autopsy, with all the advantages of the most excellent and experienced medical services available in South Africa. Mr. Burt might still be alive.

intervened. his question directed to preserve the previously taken up. To this on occasions he intervened to point out the error, although they were already sensed by other counsel.

Whilst I am not satisfied his presence in fact made sufficient difference to the outcome of the inquiry, it does come to me that the Deputy New General, having been seen by a few questions appearing designed to lead to a confirmed view, should have called: upon to play the dominant role in determining whether the proceedings should now

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**Steve Biko : Strong and healthy when arrested, he died 26 days later.**

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## OVERSEAS



Funeral of Marshal Vasilevsky: Soviet leaders headed by President Brezhnev and Mr. Kosygin, the Prime Minister, carrying the ashes of Marshal Alexander Vasilevsky at his funeral in Red Square, Moscow, yesterday. The mar-

shal, who helped to plan and command the battle of Stalingrad, died aged 82 of a "serious and prolonged illness" which in Russian announcements usually means cancer. His remains were placed in a niche in the Kremlin wall, where many of the Soviet elite

are entombed. One of the generals on whom Stalin put most reliance, Vasilevsky played an important role in driving the invading German forces from Moscow, the Ukraine and the Baltic republics in the Second World War.

## Rival of Mr Bhutto freed from prison

Hyderabad, Dec. 8.—Khan Abdul Wali Khan, the veteran Pakistani politician, was today on his way to Peshawar under police escort to seek bail on criminal charges he faces there, the Associated Press of Pakistan news agency reported.

He was formally released from jail here today after being in custody since February, 1975, on charges of conspiracy against the state.

The 60-year-old former leader of the parliamentary opposition to Mr Bhutto, the former Prime Minister, was granted bail two days ago by a special tribunal which since April last year has been hearing conspiracy charges against more than 50 opposition leaders.

Five of them were released with Mr Wali Khan and sent to Peshawar. The six must seek bail in various parts of the country on charges which include attempted murder.

Mr Bhutto, overthrown by a military coup last July, is on trial on murder and corruption charges.—Reuters.

## 475 Russian dissidents 'die in jail'

Geneva, Dec. 8.—An association of Swiss psychiatrists said today that 475 Soviet dissidents had died in the Syborska prison hospital in the last 10 years after being tortured.

In a press statement the Swiss Association against the Abuse of Psychiatry for Political ends said it had learned of the figure from "our own sources".

It had sent a letter to President Brezhnev calling for the liberation of all dissidents held in Soviet prisons or psychiatric clinics. The letter also called on him to allow one of the association's leading members, Professor Christian Durand, to visit such detainees.—Reuters.

## Britons injured in Cyprus plane crash are named

Nicosia, Dec. 8.—The British military authorities today released the names of the five Britons injured yesterday when a United States Air Force U2 reconnaissance aircraft crashed just after taking off from Akrotiri base. The pilot, Captain Robert Henderson, aged 32, who came from California, and four Greek-Cypriot civilians were killed.

Mr Jack Flawn, aged 55, a senior scientific officer from Woking, Surrey, was very seriously injured. He was working in the meteorological office which took the full brunt of the crash impact.

Less seriously injured were four Royal Air Force personnel: Flight Lieutenant E. J. M. Limb, aged 41, of Evesham, Worcestershire; Senior Aircraftman M. G. Watt, aged 20, of Aberdeen; Senior Aircraftman A. E. Ratcliff, aged 27, of Birmingham; and Senior Aircraftwoman J. M. Batye, aged 21, of Leeds. All were suffering from burns.—Reuters and AP.

## Mock trial highlights plight of Soviet Jew

By Robert Parker

A mock trial was held in London yesterday to publicize the plight of many Jews living in Russia and particularly the case of Anatoly Shcharansky, a young mathematician.

Mr Shcharansky was active on a committee designed to bring pressure on the Soviet authorities to comply with the Helsinki agreement. He has now been in prison for eight months, and it has been discovered that he faces charges involving treason, the ultimate penalty for which is death.

His wife, who gave evidence

at the "trial" yesterday, was told to leave Russia on the morning after they were married in 1974. The stream of letters she had been receiving from him had suddenly ceased.

Among those who gave evidence was a Russian lawyer who was "struck off" for agreeing to defend Mr Shcharansky.

The evidence was presented by Mr Donald Farquharson, QC, instructed by Lord Foot. It was heard by a panel of three MPs: Sir David Renton, QC (C. Huntingdonshire); Mr Jeffrey Thomas, QC (Lab Aberkerry); and Mr Jeremy Thorpe, former Liberal leader.

The full transcript of the "trial" together with the considerable amount of evidence denying Mr Shcharansky's guilt, is to be sent to the Soviet Government, as well as to the other 33 countries which are signatories to the Helsinki agreement.

The Russian's case against Shcharansky appears to rest on an open letter sent to Izvestia by Mr S. L. Lipavsky, who was described yesterday as a turncoat. Mr Lipavsky alleges that Mr Shcharansky's contacts with Western visitors amounted to espionage.

Belgrade, Dec. 8.—Two British MPs today accused the Soviet delegation at the 35th session European security conference of a "deliberate and disgraceful insult to the British Parliament and People".

Mr Greville Janner (Lab, Leicester West) and Mr Timothy Sainsbury (C, Hove) had brought with them to Belgrade a silver-covered Old Testament in Hebrew and English which they wanted passed on to Mr Anatoly Shcharansky in his Moscow prison.

They arranged to meet Mr Yuri Vorontsov, the chief Soviet delegate, but when they arrived at his office he refused to see them.

## Romanians promised hard work and discipline

From Dassa Trevisan

Bucharest, Dec. 8.—The congress of the Romanian Communist Party went into closed session today to discuss President Ceausescu's decision that the Romanians would have to wait another eight years before the Government could change its economic priorities from industrialization to the production of consumer goods.

The outcome is a foregone conclusion and tomorrow, when the congress winds up, it is bound to support the President's five-year plan providing for more sacrifices, discipline and hard work so that by 1985 Romania could become a medium-developed country.

Over the past 20 years the country whose economy was before based mainly on agriculture, was concentrating on industrialization. The increase in industrial production was one of the highest in Europe but the corresponding neglect of agriculture and consumer goods production has made Romania one of the countries in Europe with the lowest living standards.

In recent years, however, and especially since the strike in the coalmines last August, more attention is being paid to satisfying at least basic consumer needs.

No one in Romania has mentioned the miners' strike in the

Jui valley, and Mr Ceausescu also ignored it in his speech, though the awareness of the discontent has evidently had some effect.

Pay rises and a gradual, experimental reduction in the working week have been promised together with a modest increase in the production of consumer goods. But this falls short of the general trend throughout Eastern Europe.

Mr Ceausescu, who is also the party's secretary-general, has announced in his speech to the congress that in the coming years the investment rate in industry of 32 per cent of the national income will be maintained.

He seems confident that his appeal for more sacrifices will meet with the nation's approval.

His recent visits to the Jui area showed that he had succeeded in convincing the miners that he cared for their interests. Whether their demands have been fully met is hard to determine, but it is evident that they have been given some attention, though the flow of consumer goods, food and other supplies to the area has according to some eyewitnesses, been slowing down.

Observers say that the miners have become sceptical about whether the Government would keep its promises.

## Chinese police complain of persecution by radicals

From David Bonavia

Hongkong, Dec. 8.—Chinese policemen in different parts of the country have staged angry rallies to denounce what they term their suppression during recent years by the so-called radical faction led by Chiang Ching, Chairman Mao's widow.

In the province of Kweichow a rally of about 1,000 people heard a speaker accuse the "radicals" who were purged in October last year, of "sabotaging the public security organs, ruthlessly persecuting public security cadres and policemen, storming prisons, looting confidential files and guns and sweeping public security cadres and policemen out like rubbish".

The provincial denunciation rally came after a statement from the authorities in Peking about the need to correct mistakes in police work. There has also been discussion of the role of the judiciary, which virtually disappeared in the period of the Cultural Revolution.

Excessive use of the death penalty in recent purges has been criticized by implication.

Meetings of policemen in the south-eastern province of Anhui have been told that the "radicals" wanted to make sure that not more than 40 per cent of public security workers should be veterans of this type of work, and transferred many to other functions.

At Kunming, in south-western China, a meeting of police and public security officials has been told that former influential officials had "treated veteran cadres as their number one enemies, cruelly persecuted and dealt blows at them and tried in every way to put them to death".

## In brief

### No Kennedy plot, FBI files show

Washington, Dec. 8.—The thousands of pages of formerly secret documents released here on the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the assassination of President Kennedy have produced no new evidence that anyone other than Lee Harvey Oswald was responsible for the shooting, American newspapers conclude today.

Reporters' initial findings, after a full day's scrutiny of the documents, are that the Warren Commission was correct in its conclusion that Oswald acted alone and unaided.

### Iran-Oman pledge

Muscat, Dec. 8.—The Shah of Iran and Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman pledged in a joint communiqué to cooperate closely in protecting the Gulf oil routes through the Strait of Hormuz and to maintain their fight against internal subversion.

### Abortion wrangle ends

Washington, Dec. 8.—The United States Congress has ended its long wrangle over Government-financed abortions for women on low incomes. The dispute had threatened to block Christmas salaries for 240,000 federal employees.

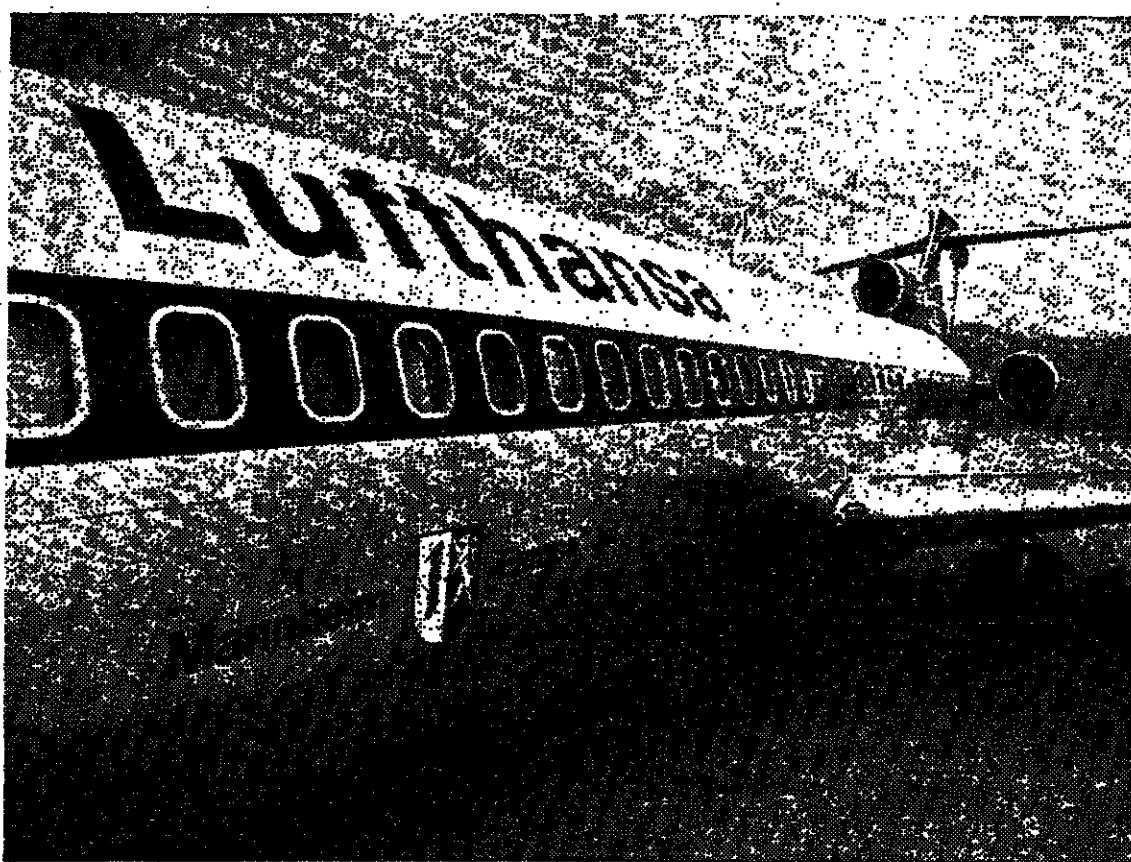
### UN refugees post

New York, Dec. 8.—The General Assembly tonight elected Mr Paul Harding, aged 63, the former Danish Prime Minister, as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

### Fischer cleared

Pasadena, California, Dec. 8.—Charges accusing Bobby Fischer, the former world chess champion, of attacking a woman journalist were dismissed after he appeared in the municipal court here.

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## PARLIAMENT, December 8, 1977

## Row over ships deal: PM complains Tories would prefer order to go to foreign yards

House of Commons  
There was no reason why this country should give a competitive advantage to foreign shipyards which were desperately anxious to start these orders, Mr. James Callaghan, the Prime Minister (Cardiff, South-East, Lab) said.

Mr. Nicholas Ridley (Cirencester and Tewkesbury, C) asked: How much time is the Prime Minister spending today on engineering his Watergate-type cover-up? The Poles apparently have not been asked to put any money on the table for the purchase of the merchant ships.

If the Prime Minister must buy votes, would he use the profits of Labour Party Properties Ltd rather than the taxpayers' money?

Mr. Callaghan—A congratulatory Mr. Ridley on the level of the question to where he is, I understand there is a supply day on Monday and if the Opposition cannot get a question in, I would say that the criticism of this order has

come from two main sources—the Conservative Party and foreign shipyards. (Conservative interruptions.)

So far as I can see, the attitude of the Opposition is that they would prefer these orders to go to foreign shipyards, with our men standing unemployed in our own yards, the steel industry not able to provide the steel, and the engines not being able to be produced by this country.

All this they would prefer. If that is the case they should say so. Mr. Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition (Barnet, Finchley, C) says that all the figures that are put before the House are put there to mislead the House.

Yes, appropriate, because this is a matter of commercial negotiation. If the Opposition were in a less irresponsible mood they would recognize that.

There is no reason why we should give a competitive advantage to foreign yards which are desperately anxious to snatch orders which need considerable work within the limits of commercial production.

(Conservative cheers and Labour interruptions.)

Some time ago he said the deal was in the bag. He did not know then how much was involved? If so, why is he so anxious to hide the sum? (Conservative cheers.)

Mr. Callaghan—The simple answer is that I do not carry this complicated matter in my head. (Conservative interruptions.) But I repeat the offer. I hope the Opposition will debate this on Monday. Then they can have all the figures that are put before the House.

Yes, appropriate, because this is a matter of commercial negotiation. If the Opposition were in a less irresponsible mood they would recognize that.

There is no reason why we should give a competitive advantage to foreign yards which are desperately anxious to snatch orders which need considerable work within the limits of commercial production.

supplementary answer to a question of this sort.

Mr. Thatcher—is the Prime Minister saying that on one of the main issues of the day neither he nor his Government takes the trouble to see that they properly briefed to answer questions in the House? (Conservative cheers.)

If he does not give the precise figures, will he at least give the proportion of the order which is being met by the taxpayer?

Mr. Callaghan—I understand from the Lord President of the Council (Mr. Michael Foot) that the Opposition have been told that they will want to debate this on Monday.

All the figures will be produced then that are appropriate to this matter.

## Reaction to Labour's anti-Front broadcast

Mr. Alexander Lyon (York, Lab) during question time to the Prime Minister, asked—Will he read a transcript of last night's party political broadcast and send a copy of it to the House?

Mr. Callaghan—There is no ministerial responsibility for these matters. As I told the Labour Party conference there will be no carefully weighed electoral considerations to be made by a suitable ambassadorial phrase by the political parties on these matters. Our opposition to racism must be total. (Labour cheers.)

## Tribunal on Crown Agents: witnesses cannot be prosecuted

The proposed inquiry into the Crown Agents is to be held in public, Mr. James Callaghan, the Prime Minister, announced in a statement. He said that the Government had taken due note of the general feeling expressed by the House on Monday night that the inquiry would be a tribunal under the 1921 Act.

Mr. Callaghan said: The Government have carefully considered the form of the inquiry and have taken into account the various proposals contained in the report of the Royal Commission on Tribunals under Lord Justice Salmon in 1966. The Government's conclusion is that the most appropriate form of inquiry in this case would be a tribunal set up under the 1921 Act.

The tribunal would be responsible for the investigation and the taking of evidence. It should however also seek to find a way to ensure the legitimacy of the inquiry and to ensure that the witnesses are protected from public allegations which may well prove to be unfounded.

The House will be aware that the appointment of a tribunal will effectively prevent the taking of evidence in the future against any witness and civil proceedings against any witness. The tribunal will have the necessary statutory powers to compel witnesses to attend and give evidence and to ensure that the witnesses are protected from public allegations which may well prove to be unfounded.

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## Hitachi kept out by a 'successful conspiracy'

A successful conspiracy involving two little Neddies had kept Hitachi, the Japanese electronics group, out of this country, Mr. Nicholas Budgen (Wolverhampton, South-West, C) said during question time.

The conspiracy involved the Government and the Ministry of Overseas Development. The Government had been told that Hitachi was a successful conspiracy.

Mr. Callaghan—The House did not kick the Government into action. The Government took full account of the Minister for Overseas Development's report and the Minister's view of the House.

There was a difference of view between the Government and the House. The Government had been told that Hitachi was a successful conspiracy.

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## More variety in pay deals preferred

The rate of inflation was expected to decline to single figures by next spring but how long it stayed there or fell further depended on the rate of inflation, Mr. Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said at question time.

Mr. Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) had asked if the Chancellor was satisfied with the rate of inflation.

Mr. Howe—The Government made a decision in the summer, and it is not a mathematical point, and it is not a question of whether or not we are satisfied with the rate of inflation.

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## Mr Rees offers firemen conditional exemption from future pay policy: Opposition want 'no-strike' pledge

If the two sides to the fire brigades' dispute could come to an agreement on a formula for fixing firemen's pay after November 1978, the Government would not be bound to insist on a no-strike pledge, Mr. Roy Jenkins, the Home Secretary, said.

On the other hand, it will give them an agreed and assured basis for their pay in the longer term. It is the view of the Government that the 10 per cent increase already on offer, coupled with agreement on a future pay formula, would be a reasonable basis for a shorter working week to be introduced without loss of pay, provide an honourable and lasting settlement.

I have emphasized to both sides of the dispute the importance which the Government attach to settling the dispute with the minimum of disruption to the public.

Mr. William Whitelaw, Deputy Leader of the Opposition (Fenrith and Berwick, Lab), said that the Government's offer was a reasonable basis for a shorter working week to be introduced without loss of pay, provide an honourable and lasting settlement.

On the terms, which is to define the relationship between the firemen and the pay of other workers, Mr. Whitelaw said that the Government's offer was a reasonable basis for a shorter working week to be introduced without loss of pay, provide an honourable and lasting settlement.

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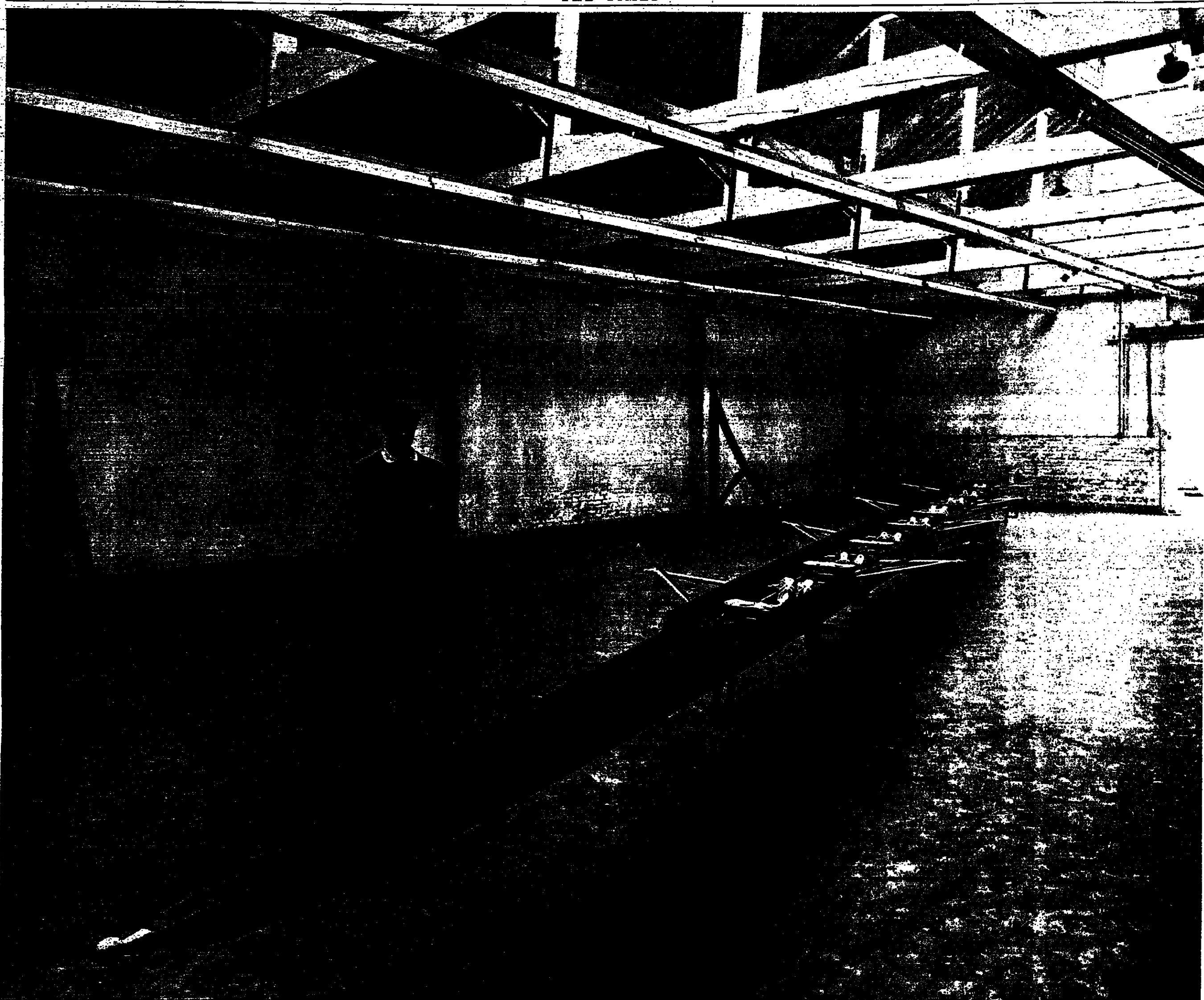
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THE TIMES



## John Vigurs' boat is so good it's almost unsporting.

Britain won two gold medals in the World Rowing Championships at Amsterdam last August. Our success was due not only to the superb fitness and technique of our rowing teams but also to Mr. John Vigurs' new boats.

They are the lightest ever built.

In the lightweight eight event the British team won by a margin of only 7/100ths of a second (about three centimetres over a 2000 metre course). Mr. Bob Janousek, past chief national coach, says, "If it wasn't for the fact that our boat was twenty kilograms lighter than the competition we may not have won."

John Vigurs built his boats out of synthetic materials—polyurethane paints and foams, resins, glass fibre and carbon fibre. The result is a craft far lighter and more rigid than the traditional teak boats.

Rowing will never be the same again.

Synthetics have become invaluable in sport. In everything from skiing to pole-vaulting. Our new surfaces help Olympic athletes break world records and have made all weather sport possible.

For over a hundred years Bayer have been inventing new materials that are lighter, stronger, more versatile. Today they are used in practically every human activity.

In agriculture, architecture and industry. Opening up countless new possibilities to design engineers in every field.

Ask John Vigurs.



Bayer think of tomorrow—today. By spending over £200 million on research every year. By making over 6,000 products. Employing over 170,000 people world-wide and selling to almost every country in the world, contributing to their economic well-being.

If you'd like to know more about Bayer and the work we do, please write to the address below for our free booklet that we will be publishing in the new year.

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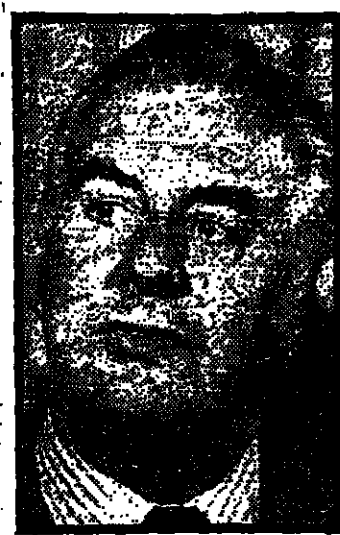
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## Hostility to Mr Fraser, but he still looks an election winner



Mr Fraser and Mr Whitlam



Melbourne

Although the conservative Government's majority in the Australian House of Representatives is likely to be drastically reduced, it is unlikely that the Australian Labour Party will win tomorrow's election.

After a shaky start to the campaign, with a string of upsets, the polls in the last week have constantly indicated that Mr Malcolm Fraser's Liberal-Country Party coalition will retain office.

In the Upper House, it is possible that the result will be close enough to delay a decision until as late as Christmas. The Australian Democrats, the new centre party, seem to have a distinct chance of holding the balance of power there.

Indeed, the Democrats' leader, the former Liberal, Mr Don Chipp, could become the focal figure of the election with support growing all the time.

The campaign has been a bitter affair with apparently no one particularly wanting an election apart from Mr Fraser himself, having declared his intention to hold a premature election, he appeared at one stage to be in serious trouble, with opinion polls showing an unexpected swing against the Government.

However, it now appears that any resentment against Mr Fraser and his team was merely due to irritation at his cavalier approach to calling an election and at the Government's mediocre handling of the economy. Having registered that protest, the electorate apparently withdrew from supporting Mr Gough Whitlam, the Labour leader, immediately it seemed that he might actually win. In the past week not one opinion poll gave him any hope of victory.

For a number of reasons the opinion polls could be mistaken but so far in Australia they have an impeccable record.

Indisputably, the most memorable aspect of this campaign has been the astonishing performance of the Australian Democrats, unheard of six months ago. Their snowballing support must be attributed to a dissatisfaction with the two main parties. Without an official platform, the Democrats look like taking around 10 per cent of the vote.

The early issues, such as unemployment, inflation and even the now submerged issue of uranium, have not sustained their impact because neither of the two main parties can claim

to have presented a convincing solution. Instead, a public euphorically weary of too many elections has taken more interest in such side issues as the embarrassing resignation of Mr Phillip Lynch, the Treasurer, over alleged profiteering on land speculation. The fledgling Democrats—certainly Mr Don Chipp—have played on public discontent with inter-party muck-raking over the years.

Neither leader has distinguished himself with a sparkling performance over the three-week campaign. Instead, each has given the appearance of being at pains to avoid trouble. Mr Whitlam has at least managed this with success, but Mr Fraser has found more hostility than he bargained for over the calling of the election, and the repercussions of the Lynch affair.

Assuming that the opinion polls may still be wrong, there are five possible results. The first, and most likely, is that the Fraser Government will be returned to power with reduced majorities in both Houses.

Second, the Government will narrowly cling to office but lose its majority in the Senate, probably with the Australian Democrats holding the balance of power.

Third, Labour will be elected to govern but the Liberal-National Country Party coalition will retain control of the Senate. In the past week, however, the notion of Labour winning in the Lower House has diminished.

Fourth, Labour will win the right to govern but the Upper House will be controlled by the Australian Democrats.

The fifth possibility is that there could be an evenly divided House of Representatives, which has never happened before. It is possible at this time because the number of Lower House seats has been reduced from 122 to 124.

Mr Fraser wanted an election because he thought he could win it, thus securing another three years of office through a difficult economic period. He will probably be granted that wish, but he will be winning the right to receive the blame for what appears to be a bleak economic period ahead.

He does indeed win, perhaps the main post-election interest will be found in who seizes the leadership of the Labour Party from Mr Whitlam.

Douglas Aitken

Whenever the election itself comes, we are now well and truly into pre-election politics. Of that there should be no doubt. From now on everything the Government does will be with the aim of preparing the public mind for another period of Labour rule.

Likewise every move on the Conservative side has to be aimed at reminding people about the ugly restricted society another round of socialism would bring, the crushing damage it would inflict on a still convalescent economy and a country only slowly recovering from the nightmare experiences of 1975 and '76, and the better alternative which is on offer.

The underlying position is highly favourable to the Conservatives. The entire intellectual climate has swung against collectivism, and not just against its extreme forms but against the whole socialist mentality—the ideas, the thought-processes, the vocabulary in which leftist aspirations have been clothed. Socialist bombast has become the finished material for satire and its purveyors the objects of healthy ridicule, although sometimes tinged with apprehension.

Listen to this, for example: "There must be the positive encouragement of growth and amalgamation in industries where real efficiency and new output could be increased by the creation of larger production units. In some cases that may involve the creation of companies which by expanding to optimum size dominate the market. Where it is the plain and obvious judgment that production is best organized on such a scale it is the Government's duty to allow—indeed, encourage, support and sometimes even finance—the creation of the monopoly."

This passage (which comes from a recent lecture by Mr Roy Hattersley reprinted in *The New Statesman*) is not just

woolly nonsense (whose "plan and obvious judgment", for a start?), it is absurd. It is the articulated whining sound of bodybody-collectivism for which the country has no further time at all.

No one in the Labour Party knows this better than Mr Callaghan. This is why he has so suddenly become concerned with smaller businesses and independent enterprise, and why the last thing about which he wants to hear at the moment, or wants anyone else outside to hear, is the creation of larger units, whether of production, education, administration, or any other kind.

The seven million workers in smaller enterprises, and the millions of small employers or self-employed have been rediscovered like a lost tribe and Mr Harold Lever placed at their head. Gough is all the talk of socialist reconstruction through collaboration with the TUC, the social contract and so on. Enter the small man's head, head outstretched.

The Prime Minister has another, rather cruder reason for putting as much distance as he can between himself and his more itchy-fingered interventionist colleagues. There is the question of who does what with the North Sea oil revenues. Some uncertainty there may be about the best way to ensure that the bulk of these go into solid assets which will continue earning income for the British long after the oil is finished. But about one thing Mr Callaghan must surely sense almost universal certainty. People are not going to stand by and cheer while their oil money is spent in accordance with the "the plain and obvious judgment" of Mr Hattersley, let alone that of Mr Wedgwood Benn.

If there is one pot above all others upon which Mr Callaghan must fervently want to keep the lid until election time it is this one—the bubbling stew of bright socialist ideas for

I have written frequently, over the years, about the apparently insatiable lust for taking away other people's money and spending it that possesses the members of so many local authorities in this country. At times it has seemed quite literally like dementia, as councils have planned and carried out ever more gigantic schemes for municipal swimming-baths, gymnasia, tennis-courts, golf-courses, bowling-alleys, palaces of leisure, social clubs, adventure playgrounds, ski-jumps, saunas-baths, massage-parlours, skateboard arenas, arts centres, advice bureaux and indeed every conceivable variety of projects. (Including, of course, town halls) which stake out for shorter and shorter periods, the frenzied thirst for vicarious expenditure that the councillors are suffering from.

The Emperor Nerostratus burned down the Temple of Diana at Ephesus under the same name who the history-books' Councillor Rumpell Styliskenne of the Burlington-on-Sea District Council takes the opposite view, and assuages his own timor morris by causing to be erected, at public expense, monuments beside which that lost place of worship would in all likelihood assume the dimensions of a night-watchman's hut. And of all the councils in the country with a record for lunatic extravagance on a quite exceptional scale, one of the most notable is the municipal authority of Camden. Camden Council, indeed, has almost become a kind of British Standard for municipal waste, folly, incompetence and legally authorized robbery, and the most extraordinary thing

about the scandal of Camden is that it does not involve corruption; I have never come upon any evidence at all to suggest that anyone in the authority, elected or employed, has ever left enough of the jam on his fingers for so much as a penny on the development has already been richly productive of particularly Camdensque scandals. The contractors, for instance, asked a year ago for the contract to be revised, as they were in financial difficulties; the Council agreed to re-write it and have ever since concealed the new terms from the ratepayers, who provided the money and are now being saddled, without any say in the matter, with a completely open-ended contract to finish the project whatever the cost (which seems likely to reach the twenty million mark quite soon). But even that is not the real theme of my contribution today.

What has finally convinced me that Camden is the maddest group on the money-wasteful list is the knowledge of the fact that they have (a) just discovered that the present cost is £1,229,000 higher than the books had hitherto shown, and that (b) they have no clear idea of why the money wanted is so much more, particularly since some of the expenditure it concerns took place in the first stages of the project, four years ago.

I must ask the councillors of Camden now: whose money are they think they are using? Has the delirium of spending got such a hold on them that they now genuinely believe that it is their own, so that they can just leave a sack of it hang-

## Seven million workers in the smaller enterprises have been rediscovered like a lost tribe and given a leader.

"Investing" (ie, spending, for there will be little return) the old money rather than returning it to the people in lower taxation or other forms, or reducing the nation's borrowings.

Can he succeed? Of course a supreme effort will be made by the Labour leaders to dissociate from the left, keep the interventionist quiet, reassure the country that the wild men can be controlled, and generally play the Baldwin card. Yet the odds against them pulling it off are enormous.

On the surface, it is true, Mr Callaghan has some things in his favour. The annual inflation rate will be declining until late next year from the intolerable to the merely appalling. There is the extraordinary passivity of the Labour Party in face of unemployment levels which are going to stay depressingly high. The Government is about to do some relief of the differing approaches of the parties in a way that speeches could never do and in a way that Mr Callaghan and Labour tacticians would very much rather duck. It should, therefore, become a vast aid to the presentation of the Conservative case.

Second, there are relations with the unions. Here we have what used to be Labour's trump card. Yet as the days of confrontation unfold, with the Government dug in deep against

Mr Callaghan's dash for the right. Public opinion has changed but the Labour Party has not. It can be relied upon to be the Opposition's best ally in undermining the Callaghan manoeuvre.

Whatever the demands of the moment the priorities of the Labour Party remain strongly in favour of more public spending, enlarged state services, more intervention, further egalitarian redistribution and the assertion of collective values over individual responsibility.

As Tony Crosland wrote long ago in the opposite context, "If we wish to change the present priorities, we must first change the present Government."

The appearance of the North Sea revenues, far from being a bit of bad luck for the Conservative Opposition, is a most fortunate piece of political timing. It will throw into sharp relief the differing approaches of the parties in a way that speeches could never do and in a way that Mr Callaghan and Labour tacticians would very much rather duck. It should, therefore, become a vast aid to the presentation of the Conservative case.

Second, there are relations with the unions. Here we have what used to be Labour's trump card. Yet as the days of confrontation unfold, with the Government dug in deep against

the firemen and a long series of similar struggles to come, is there anything left at all of the special relationship argument?

Nowadays the frequent ministerial references to the close TUC-Government liaison which would see us through are heard no more. We are back to Magi-not percentages with a vengeance. Although on the wrong ground, and in the wrong way, the reality is at last being faced—that the conflicts between group and community interest are there, between the money some groups want and the money which can prudently be made available, and that there can be no substitute for skill, judgment, subtlety and toughness in coping with each such situation.

For the Conservatives, watching the Labour Government's "social firm" is like watching the incompetent generals of some weak front line ally in a common cause, as their tactics are overwhelmed and their internal moral collapses. In the end it is not the Opposition who will let the Government down, nor like last time. In the end, however many "they shall not pass" speeches "Marshall" Callaghan may make it is just such "allies" as these who will let everyone else down.

Then, third, there are differences of party attitude towards violence and public order—differences which could inflict critical damage on Labour, however strenuous the efforts to play them down. For in essence, it is apparently the view in much of the Labour Party that violence at Grunwick was "inevitable". Inevitable in the view of some, may be, but as Angus Maude asked in a penetrating Commons speech, is it right? Slow and when is violence ever right and justified in a free society in response to a grievance?

Or even in central Africa, to switch to another example from current Labour thinking, has it really been right, even if it

was asserted at one point to be inevitable, to build Britain's policy around the Patriotic Front guerrillas because they had the most guns and were the most violent? These are questions which events are going to force Labour to answer with a great deal more candour than hitherto between now and the election, and which Conservative policy is bound to highlight.

Fourth, there is the embarrasment of the industrial strategy which has so persistently failed to connect with the real needs of industrial recovery. Mr Callaghan and Mr Reiley may be full of talk about smaller business and management incentives these days, but tripartism and regeneration, that terrible duo, are still hovering in the wings. The failure to spark off business confidence, to persuade entrepreneurs to put aside their caution and to employ people, expand and market new products and services has been, and remains, so total that the overton now arises when a substantial business revival can ever take place at all in Britain with a Labour Government and with the pattern of legislation and regulation that is bound to accompany it, with or without a Lib-Lab pact.

As a basis for the Conservative electoral appeal such an analysis may sound negative. But there should be no apology for that. Conservative policy themes cannot be built up in abstract. They draw life and vividness from the very policies and attitudes they are designed to replace. The negative and positive aspects are as inseparable as with the conventional phonographic process. A further article will look at the way in which these more positive aspects of the Conservative case are developing.

David Howell  
The author is Conservative MP for Guildford.  
© Times Newspapers Ltd. 1977

Bernard Levin

## Can someone stem this flood before the coffers run dry?

## "You did say" he said, "That even diamonds could be discreet."

Set into the dial, to mark each shining hour, were twelve diamonds. Chastely performing the function of figures on the face.

Fascinated, I picked up the watch. The ends of the heavily textured bracelet dropped loosely through my fingers.

"But it's far too extravagant!" I explained. He shrugged.

"£3,945 is expensive," he concluded. "But if you have any doubts..." and before I could try it on my wrist, he took it from me. And deftly dropped it into my glass of champagne.

"It won't affect the flavour," he laughed, seeing my concern. "It's 18 carat gold."

"I hope it's champagne proof," I returned.

Suddenly anxious, he lifted it from the glass.

"They said it was water-resistant," he said.

A tiny bubble sparkled for an instant on the slender gold case. And was gone!

Audemars Piguet

Illustrated brochure and a list of appointed jewellers is available from Audemars Piguet, 67 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8RS.

## Making a meal of international brotherhood

I sincerely hope that Mr Begin's stomach upset during his visit to Britain, will do nothing to lessen the supernatural impact of a film I have just seen. Perhaps, to redress the balance, we should revisit the puppet show when President Sadat returned home from his historic trip to Israel, his digestive processes were still in tip-top working order.

The film is the latest in Shirley du Boulay's excellent *Etherman* series, and you can see it on BBC 1 on Sunday night. It is called *Taste and See*, and it shows the role that food plays in the religious and religious-social lives of Jews, Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Buddhists and Christians.

The final sequence is an erudite supper party, hosted by Rabbi Lionel Blue, a dedicated gastronome who is also a member of the rabbinic court of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain. Members of all the faiths have listed sit round the same table and, except for a fasting Buddhist monk who sips only lemon juice, share a meal that does not offend their religious sensibilities.

Rabbi Blue's post-prandial summing up may sound simplistic to some, but I give it because, as he said to me later, he has applied the theory and it works: "If you don't throw slogans at people who have

"The chairman will be late; he's just rung through to say he's only reached the 8th floor."



just passed you the salt and pepper."

The rabbi's humorous wisdom spills over from the film into the pages of a cookery book, *A Taste of Heaven*, he has particularly a quote from the preface: "Religious recipes must take the strain of the unexpected demand—the guest who only God invited. They are, therefore, recipes for wide pans and deep pots for the dumplings served in solidarity at separate tables."

## Poetic bridge to ignorance

Robert Maxwell was in ebullient form yesterday. With reason. Not content with throwing a bridge between poetry and science, his Pergamon Press has handed out one of the biggest catches of the book world's year.

First, the bridge. Pergamon's *Encyclopaedia of Ignorance*, is the work of 50 or so experts who hold forth in not too technical language, on unsolved—but not unsolvable—scientific problems. The poetic touch is provided by Ronald Duncan who co-edited the work with Miranda Weston-Smith, granddaughter of the great cosmologist E. A. Milne.

It was Mr Duncan, not Mr Maxwell, who thought up, and delivered, the bridge metaphor at yesterday's launching party, but I lost him when he said that as physics was poetry and so was chemistry, there was no bridge, but by inference, no need for a bridge.

I reestablished contact with the proceedings when Mr Maxwell disclosed that later this month, Pergamon will publish—ahead of the Soviet Union—a drastically revised English edition of Leonid Brezhnev's biography, complete with a special introduction by the Soviet leader himself. The anonymous authors are members of Moscow's Institute of Marxism-Leninism.

## When plump is beautiful

Did you know that 10 million turkeys were gobbled up last Christmas? In 1976, the British Turkey Federation estimates, 11 million will be consumed.

For those of you who do not like goose, I thought you would want to know that today sees the "heaviest turkey championship" which will be followed by an auction of that august bird for Spooks—the show business charity for crippled children.

The record turkey weighed in (back in 1975) at 71lb 12oz. Last year the winner was 71lb 4oz, but went on to achieve another record when a butcher bid £1,000 at auction (the money went to Spooks).

Yesterday, I asked Brian Dale, the Shropshire turkey farmer who won with "Mr Chubbs" in 1975, if he was confident of winning again this

## Escargots plus grands

And now for the *hors d'oeuvre*... or the tale of another whopper. The Science Research Council is to give £9,000 for the study of snails on an obscure island in the Bristol Channel. Cuillin, Bantock, of the North London Polytechnic, has shown that the island's banded snails are "abnormally large" (a gastronomic's delight, no doubt) and differ from those on the mainland.

This is the first time that variation of this kind has been found in this species and it is of great interest to the theory of population evolution and species formation. Dr Bantock told me. He added that it seemed to fit in with Darwin's observation that large size is common where there are few predators.

The island, Strep Holme, was bought last year as a nature preserve to be kept in memory of Kenneth Allsob, the author, broadcaster and naturalist.

The stop-watches will be out next Monday when Radio 3 broadcasts two specially commissioned works for which three radio stations in Sweden, Germany and France will each provide one part of the music ensemble. The stations are in Stockholm, Bremen and Paris. Hans Keller, who chairs the International working party which plans European Broadcasting Union concert seasons, reckons "a bit of the works" to be performed are highly modern in character, including "meta music for organs, voices, electric guitars and percussion."

هذا من الاصل



# UK AIRPORTS

## Need for an integrated national system

by Arthur Reed

Is there any serious reason why the control should not be extended to all the major airports in Britain? The main advantages of such a policy would be twofold. First, local rivalries which have led, since the 1960s, to expensive, competing airports in many regions of the country would be extinguished, while the pattern of a national airports system could be established dispassionately by the professionals at BAA headquarters.

What should that pattern be? Britain has too many local airports trying to be something bigger. Some of these should be closed to major airline services, although retaining open for "feeder" flights, general aviation and light aircraft flying. Scheduled services should be concentrated in a series of "hub" airports strategically located throughout the country—Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle and Glasgow are obvious points.

These should complement the country's leading airports at Heathrow and Gatwick with a concentration of international services of their own, so relieving the pressure to some extent on the London airports by serving passengers who now find it necessary to go there for connecting flights.

Strong direction should come from government along these lines to the British Airports Authority which could carry out such a policy within a few years, and without any vast new expense devolving upon the taxpayers, and without taking on large numbers of new staff.

Having decided on the pattern of British airports, the second big problem for the Government is how these airports are to cope with the startling increases in the numbers of passengers expected in the approaching decades.

Some 45 million passengers used the airports in 1976-77, three-quarters of them passing through the seven airports managed by the BAA, and by the middle 1990s, this figure, on present forecasts, will have reached 120 million—90 million of whom will pass through the BAA airports.

There now appears no chance of Britain ever opening another new "green field" airport which could, at a stroke, solve capacity problems until the middle of the next century. Pressure by the environmentalists, and the fact that there are no votes in airport extensions, have ruled out such a development.

All the skill of the BAA and government airport planners will be needed, therefore, to ensure that the country's existing facilities are fully and economically used in the future—although there must come a moment, at present unforeseeable, when despite these skills Britain's airport space runs out.

At that time the government of the day will have to make a decision to break a green field site, or to limit artificially the inflow of passengers and freight to the country, with deleterious effects on the balance of payments.

In the meantime, the existing airports, and those who live around them, must be prepared for considerable expansion over the next few years. It now appears as if Heathrow will not expand beyond a fourth terminal, which is to be the subject of a planning inquiry, but it will be dealing with, by the time that terminal is operating, some 40 million passengers a year.

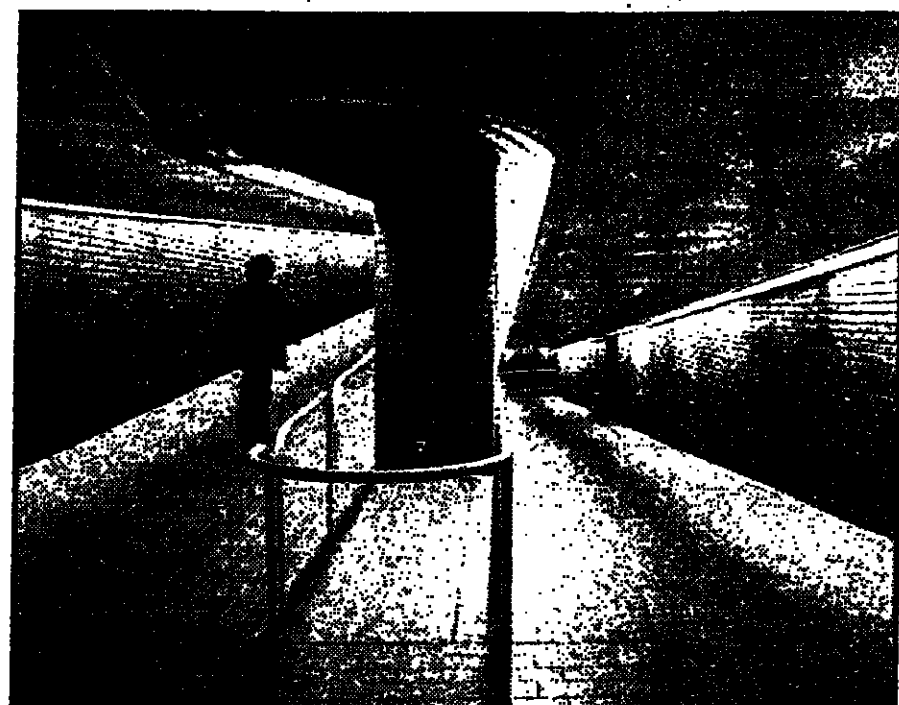
Gatwick, at present underused, will become more and more vital over the next few years as a safety valve for Heathrow and many airlines, which are at present unwilling to go there, will be forced to transfer services.

Stansted and Luton will also have to play a part in relieving Heathrow, as will the provincial airports, but there is consolation in the fact that as the new generation of airlines becomes bigger and quieter, the impact on communities of all this increased activity will be far less than was imagined even a few years ago.

The author is Air Correspondent, The Times.



Two scenes at Heathrow: travellers newly arrived at terminal three queue at the money exchange counter; terminal two has undergone extensive development, and this ramp now leads from the terminal to London's new Underground station within the airport.



## Hopes for future after recent tribulations

After years of upheaval caused by development works, both Heathrow and Gatwick, London's two main airports, should be back to normal by next summer, according to Mr Norman Payne, chairman of the British Airports Authority.

More works are to be completed after that date, but these should not affect the passenger, as did the £100m "facelift" at Gatwick and the completion at Heathrow of major works including the refurbishing of terminal two and the bringing of the London Underground line into the centre of the airport.

"Our plan is to put both airports back on the map next year", Mr Payne said. "They have certainly been in the doghouse as far as passengers are concerned during the rebuilding. Completing the work is our priority at both airports at present."

Mr Payne said the strike of air traffic control assistants last autumn would result in the authority's profit being reduced this year. The dispute had hit terminal two at Heathrow, particularly badly. The terminal was being rebuilt and was in no condition to accept delays or to receive the larger aircraft, up to Boeing 747 size, which the foreign airlines had introduced after they had reduced flight frequencies.

In addition, more passengers were using terminal two as people switched to foreign airlines after British Airways took Trident aircraft out of service because of the discovery of wing cracks. The situation had been made worse because the strike took place during the foggy season.

In an effort to even out the flow of passengers, the authority was talking to airlines about transferring some flights from terminals two and three to terminal one.

Access to Heathrow should be eased after the Queen opens the Underground link to the centre of the airport. But the authority was not clear what the extent of this relief would be, Mr Payne continued. It took time for people to change their travel habits, and warnings of traffic congestion at Heathrow might have to be issued during the peak summer weekends, as had been necessary during the past two years.

Parking at both airports should be improved by the return of parking spaces with the end of the development work at Heathrow, and with the extension of the long-term parking area at Gatwick.

If Heathrow returned to normal by next summer, how long would it remain like that as traffic being carried by the airlines resumed a normal rate of growth against a background of recovery by the world economy? Mr Payne said he hoped the airport would never again be disrupted by such extensive works.

The alterations were probably the last which could ever be made at Heathrow, apart from such items as the £6.5m Eurogate satellite. Future improvements would have to be made by airline rescheduling and more efficient use of existing terminal capacity.

The authority expected airlines would in future use larger aircraft. Though this was attractive from the points of view of aircraft movements and noise, limitations would eventually have to be placed on hourly flows of passengers.

Transfers of services from Heathrow to Gatwick would also relieve some of the strain, and some traffic would have to go to Stansted and to Luton.

The expansion plan for Heathrow had been complicated, Mr Payne said, by the Government's recent decision to order a planning inquiry into the authority's scheme to develop a fourth passenger terminal. The authority remained confident that the fourth terminal would be built, but the inquiry would put back its opening to 1984-85.

Mr Payne said he had made it clear to the airport's consultative committee, which is made up of representatives of local authorities and noise and amenity groups, that proposals for a fifth terminal at Heathrow in the early 1990s were not viable because of the problems of adequate access by road and rail, additional aircraft noise and other factors.

"The decision to hold the planning inquiry into the fourth terminal means that by the early 1980s there will be even greater problems at Heathrow", he told the committee.

"We believe there will be increased transfers of airlines to Gatwick—greater than were originally envisaged. But this will in no way eliminate demands for further capacity at Heathrow. We will, therefore, pursue our proposal for the development of a fourth terminal."

It seemed probable that the ultimate capacity at Heathrow with terminal four in operation would be about 40 million passengers a year, and further growth would have to take place elsewhere.

The British Airports Authority envisages that by the middle 1980s the four airports serving London—Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted and Luton—could be handling about 53 million passengers a year. By the 1990s the demand is expected to be 90 million passengers a year, which could be met, with Heathrow full, by developments including the building of a second terminal at Gatwick and at Stansted and Luton.

A. R.

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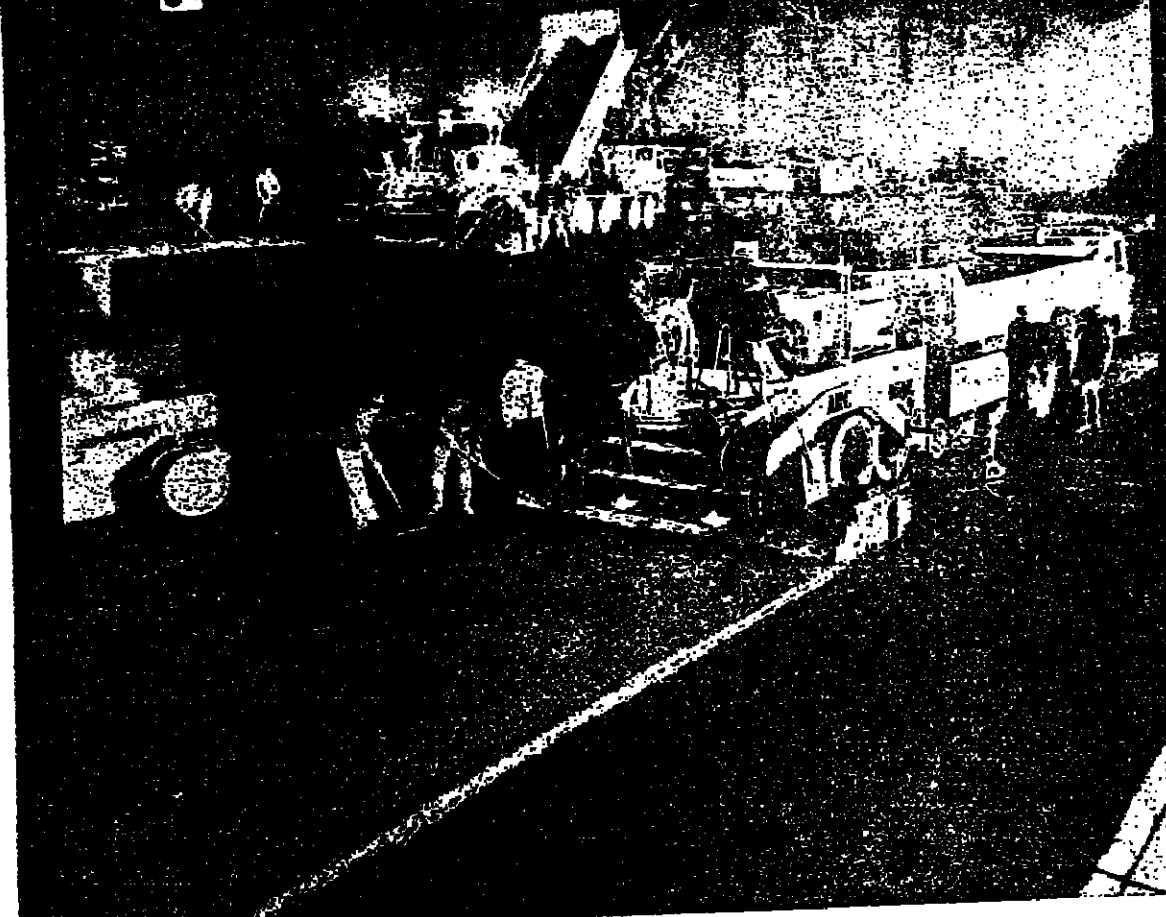
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## Authority itches to control isle-hopping 'fleas'

by Ronald Faux

On most days a field on the island of Papa Westray in Orkney becomes temporarily an airport as a Loganair Islander aircraft touches down at the end of one of the world's shortest scheduled air routes. With the wind on the nose, a similar airport on adjacent Westray is a mere minute and 10 seconds, or little more than the length of Heathrow runway, distant.

The aircraft, streaked with mud and manure, brings vets to animals, teachers to pupils, island folk to and from the mainland. It is an invaluable life-line to remote communities and the busy note of its engines brings enormous reassurance to the lonely homesteads in Shetland, too, a similar island-hopping service reduces a voyage of several hours to a flight of a few minutes.

and in the Western Isles, Islander aircraft link Stornoway, Benbecula and Barra, where landings on the beach in a whirl of spray and wet sand depend on the tide being out.

Scotland has a number of small airports on which local inhabitants have grown to depend and which have played an important social role in keeping community life going in distant corners of the country.

There has naturally been some concern over suggestions that a proposed transfer of control of the eight principal small airports in the Highlands and Islands to the British Airports Authority could result in higher fares and costs. The eight are: Sumburgh in Shetland, Kirkwall in Orkney, Wick, Inverness, Stornoway, Benbecula, Islay and Tiree.

They are operated by the Civil Aviation Authority but

the Government has asked the BAA to look into the implications of a change of ownership.

The BAA claims to have better resources in planners, engineers and operational staff. The problem has been that some small airports, in particular those in Shetland, Orkney and to a lesser extent Inverness, have become very busy through the development of North Sea oil and are no longer sleepy outposts.

The fear has been that if the BAA brings a new structure to the small airports the relaxed and informal atmosphere in which one man may double up in a number of jobs, will change.

Critics say that wherever the BAA has moved in, higher landing fees and increased passenger fares have been imposed to recover the cost of bringing an airfield up to BAA standards and hiring the extra

staff that a formal structure would require.

Sumburgh has already been improved beyond recognition by the expenditure of £1m on extending the new runway and on radar equipment to overcome the problems from the sea fogs which so frequently blanket the island.

After a long silence on the subject, the BAA has reacted strongly to criticisms that a big and expensive transfer of the small airports to the BAA would be a waste of money. Mr Norman Payne, chairman of the authority, said that some misleading statements had been made suggesting the Government was under pressure to abandon the idea of change. Mr Payne said that the BAA had expressed fears that the cost of operation, maintenance and new development at the eight airports would automatically rise under the BAA.

which worked successfully at Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Prestwick, the Scottish airports which the authority now operated.

The chairman complained that there seemed to be a feeling that the BAA had decided to get its hands on the eight small airports, which had actually happened when the Secretary of State for Trade had last year announced a review of the future of the airports. Certainly of them with a previously purely social role were emerging as important points in oil industry development. Specialized airport management, support was likely to be called upon. Since expert knowledge was not the main responsibility of the CAA, the BAA was asked to look at the implications. The Department of Trade was now considering the BAA report.

One factor they took into account was that the airports, operated at a loss. The BAA had proposed a package of measures in case it was suggested it should take over the running of the airports. A suitable capital grant should be agreed for their proper development and equipment.

"This is not to say they would be expanded and built up in a lavish manner", Mr Payne said. The authority would also seek an operating subsidy for a period of years to cover losses.

It hoped, by careful management, and by not destroying the character of the operation, that this subsidy would not have to be increased. This would be achieved by ensuring that the small airports remained separate from the normal practices that had been developed. Consultative committees would be set up between the BAA and the airport users, a practice

## 'Midges' put out feelers

by Christopher Warman

Since the first municipal airport received its licence to operate in 1929 this branch of local enterprise has blossomed until there are now some 40 airports in the United Kingdom owned by local authorities.

A mixture of civic pride and commercial sense has contributed to this expansion, and although the industry of the past few years has plunged most of them into deficit, the local authorities concerned are in general determined to continue to operate their airports for the benefit of their areas.

Not all the municipal airports operate at a profit. Some of their 28 designated municipal airports, extending from the international airport at Manchester to Coventry (Baginbun).

Some are run by a single local authority, a county or district council. Merseyside Metropolitan Council operates Liverpool Airport, while Bristol and Southend are run by their respective district councils. Others, such as East Midlands, are run by a consortium of the county and district authorities in the area.

There is another category into which the rest fit, where the operation is contracted out to a company by the municipal owner.

During the past few years the municipal airport owners, represented by the Joint Airports Committee of Local Authorities (JACOLA), has pressed the Government for financial assistance to meet the enormous difficulties of administration and the provision of technical services. This has not been forthcoming, although certain airports, including Manchester and Birmingham, have their air traffic control services provided by the national organization. They pay for the service, of course.

Most of the locally-run airports have invested in the future through large capital plans, which form a continuing financial burden, and with the galloping inflation of recent years have found themselves in deficit. At present, only five expect this year to make a profit or break even.

Where there is a loss the ratepayer has to pick up the bill, but it is argued by local authorities that this is money well spent, because an airport link is becoming essential in regional planning and as an incentive to the attraction of industry and jobs.

The Government does assist with capital development. Birmingham, for example, received a £2m in grants towards the cost of runway and terminal extensions. Other grants have gone to several, including Carlisle and Teesside, to stimulate industrial development.

One reason for the deficits is the level of charges and fees which form the airport income. This has been far too low to give local airports much chance of economic viability, and a new scale has been put forward by their committee on charges for introduction next April. It is also hoped to bring in its wake an agreement that the scale will be linked to the retail price index, to avoid any repetition of recent times.

For an or two of the locally operated airports, the financial pressure is becoming too great, and feelers are being put out to see whether the British Airports Authority would like to take over the responsibility.

If a money-losing local airport is designated part of the national network with the likelihood of extra business, the BAA might be more disposed to take it over. In

such a case, the local authority would not only get rid of its financial burden, but gain a new taxpayer.

The civic pride which first encouraged local authorities to develop their own airports still persists however. On the technical side, the point is the fact that their air traffic controllers are licensed to the same standard as at the largest international airports, and claim that their management is both efficient and commercially minded.

In its consultation document on regional airports, the Department of Trade said that any policy leading to the common ownership of the main regional airports would not be a reflection on the present management, whose performance had been of a consistently high standard.

Mr Anthony Cusworth, who holds the title of airport commandant of Southend, sees an inevitable increase in general aviation as more of a national transportation policy, drawing together roads, rail, ports and airports in a framework of regional airports.

"We are airports now, and in to say. We need to dovetail our policy into European plans."

Mr Cusworth, a technical adviser to JACOLA, is in no doubt that the number of local airports is justifiable, although he concedes that where two or three are close together, as in the case of Birmingham, Coventry and East Midlands, or Newcastle and Teesside, it might be difficult to sustain them all.

Natural growth is expected to lead to a significant increase in passenger traffic at regional airports, but it is likely that a national airports strategy will also bring with it a concentration of services at particular airports.

In this case, traffic levels at neighbouring airports will suffer. The Government does not see this as a reason for closing them, in the belief that most would have a continuing role in catering for local needs both for commercial and general aviation.

Without committing itself, the Government in its consultation document outlined the advantages which would come from common ownership of regional airports. If the strategy demanded that activity be concentrated at a small number of regional airports, these with the London airports would be the country's principal gateway for international air

services. Common ownership then should ensure that there was no wasteful competition between them, would mean a consistent sharing and investment policy, and make overall planning a less haphazard business.

Local authority airports have an important role in the future, both locally and within the needs of regional and national policy. Only they can convince the Government that they should remain under local control.

The author is Local Government Correspondent, The Times.

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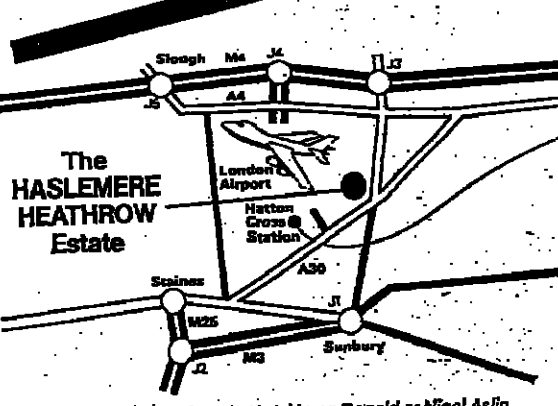
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## Costs strain the friendship

by Arthur Reed

The 90 airlines which use airports in Britain have an uneasy relationship with those whose job it is to run them. At a policy level they generally believe that they are charged too much for the services they receive, while on a day-to-day basis the co-operation between the two sides is excellent.

The airlines have a case for saying they are asked to pay too much, but this is not necessarily the fault of the airport landlords. In the case of the British Airports Authority, it has been given by government a target rate of return on net assets employed which, as Sir Peter Massfield, a former chairman of the authority, pointed out at the recent international Air Transport Association annual meeting in Madrid, is far in excess of anything which the airlines have achieved over the past 30 years.

During the financial year 1976-1977, airlines paid the authority £43.4m in landing fees and a further £3.6m in parking fees, compared with £33.5m and £1.7m respectively in the previous year. As the authority pointed out in its annual report for their most recent year, "We increased our landing fees in 1977 and took a further

step in the evolutionary change from a taxonomic structure of charges to a commercial, or cost-related, system."

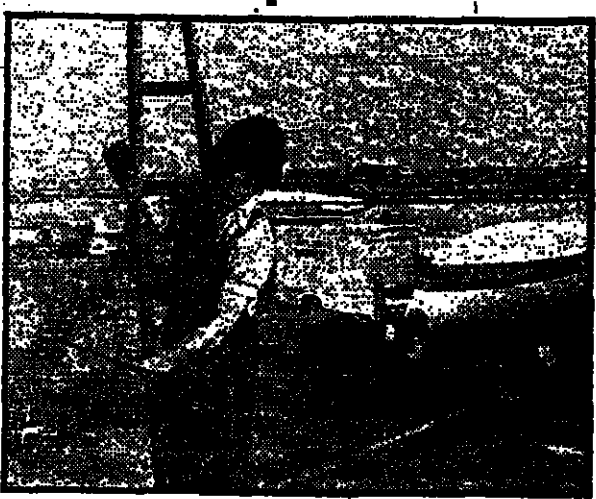
"This move was designed to bring home to the airlines the cost consequences of increasing peak loading at the south-east airports, particularly Heathrow. Landing fees increase as our Scottish airports were higher as they were designed to continue the steady progress towards a break-even result for that group."

The feelings of the airlines is that they are being asked to pay for the services which they use both at airports and between airports at a rate which has never been applied to other forms of transport.

Not only must they pay the commercial rate for using runways, but they are being expected in the near future to meet all the costs of navigation and of security.

These are costs which they can only pass on to their customers in increased fares and rates, and the airlines make the point that if they raise their charges too much they will lose traffic—a card which, in the long term, can only harm the business of those who run the airports.

But if the airlines and their customers do not pay



One among the many routine tasks—involving contracts worth millions of pounds—which keep airports operating smoothly.

for the services they receive at Britain's airports, the cost can only fall on the taxpayer.

public, many of whom, it will be argued, never use airports. But the airports are a national asset, contributing greatly to national earnings and, as such, should be considered to some extent from the country's exchequer.

So the arguments continue, but the trend appears to be strongly towards the airlines, and therefore the

has contracts covering most of the country's big airports to clean some three million square feet of floors and thousands of windows on a continuous programme. These contracts at Heathrow alone cover almost 500,000 square feet of floor area and 150,000 square feet of glass.

On a daily basis, there appears to be generally excellent co-operation between those who run the airports and those who use them. Each terminal has its manager representing the airport owner and he keeps in close touch with the managers of all the airlines which use the terminal and its facilities.

It is a jigsaw with thousands of interlocking pieces, for the 50,000 employees who work at Heathrow, for instance, belong to hundreds of different companies, all with different responsibilities.

Such co-operation will be even more important as the airport using Britain's airports become bigger and more expensive so that speedier "turnarounds" between flights will be economically vital.

Consultations between all the parties must begin earlier than ever when new developments are envisaged so that the latest ground-handling equipment can be installed to ease this process.

To give just one example, the Acme Industrial Cleaners

# A brief guide to British Airports.

The British Airports Authority is a national enterprise owning and managing 7 major airports in the U.K. Between them, these airports—Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Prestwick and Aberdeen—handle 75% of all air passenger traffic in the U.K. and 84% of air cargo traffic.

In terms of people, that's nearly 35 million passengers in 1976/77. (Compared with 28 million in 1972/73.)

When it comes to cargo, it adds up to almost 568,000 tonnes. And Heathrow alone is now the largest port by value (including the Port of London) in the country, with more than £3½ thousand million worth of exports passing through it in 1976/77.

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buildings, runways and roads.

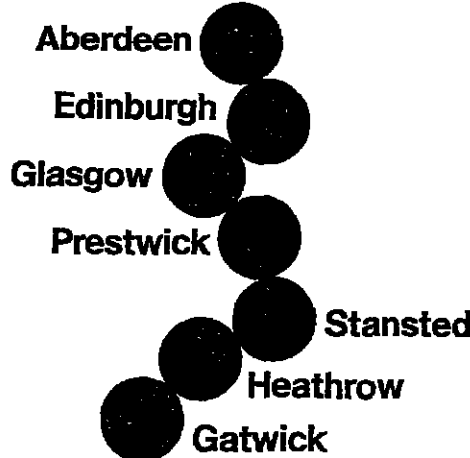
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## Poor relation may get a bigger share

General aviation—from light aircraft to executive jets—has long been the poor relation of flying in Britain, but there are encouraging signs that those who run the country's airports are becoming more receptive to its needs.

Pressure of aircraft movements and passengers on the two major London airports, Heathrow and Gatwick, will mean that both will become restricted to business aircraft

early in the next decade. But the British Airports Authority has no intention of closing the airports to this type of aviation and is going to reduce landing fees at Stansted and the Scottish airports to attract executive aviation.

At the same time, the business aircraft facilities at Gatwick, Heathrow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen airports will be improved.

None of these measures,

however welcome, will meet the continuing need in London and South-east England for an airport devoted entirely to executive aviation.

France has, in the past two years, established such a facility at the old international airport Le Bourget on the northern outskirts of Paris, complete with a specialised terminal and maintenance area. RAF Northolt, north of Heathrow,

has been suggested as a British equivalent. But, although business aviation is allowed a limited number of movements into Northolt, there is no sign of the Government relinquishing its tenancy. And the chances seem remote of London getting a custom-built airport for the exclusive use of the type of aircraft which are, in most industrialised countries, considered an essential tool of commerce.

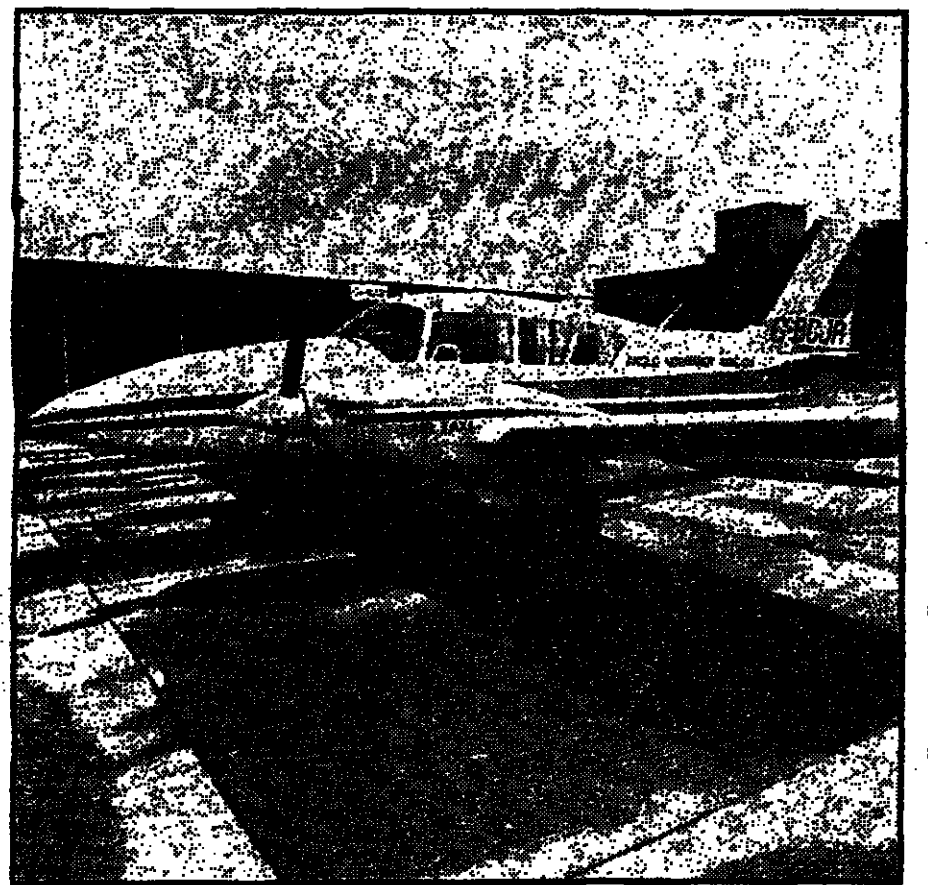
Mr Rex Smith, chairman of the British Civil Aviation Study Conference, a body which has been trying, among other things, to further the cause of airports for executive flying, said: "There is no doubt that general aviation aircraft today are being crowded by serious and highly-competent people. We are certainly not asking that irresponsible pilots should be allowed to use the main London airports."

BCASC has also been keeping a close watch over the past two years on the costs which the Civil Aviation Authority charges for such services as airworthiness tests. Mr Smith deprecates some improvement. "They have said go some way to go, but they are certainly more flexible than they have been in the past", he said.

The second problem is one of noise and emanates mainly from the growing environmental lobby, which objects to the constant "circuits and bumps" around training airfields which are made by light aircraft, and to any proposals to expand the facilities—particularly if the laying of a concrete runway which could attract jets to the area is involved.

These clashes of interest can be expected to increase, for despite the doubling in the cost of private flying since the fuel crisis of 1973-74, the number of people wanting to learn to fly, or flying as a hobby, has never been greater and there is growing pressure for more and better ground facilities for them.

A. R.



The terminal for light aircraft at Gatwick, an airport where business traffic is likely to be restricted because of increasing aircraft movements.

### The continuing contacts may be valuable

Continuing contacts between the CAA and the BCASC could be valuable in view of the fact that the authority oversees air traffic control and the licensing of airports, and has a voice in Eurocontrol, the European air traffic control system, which most aircraft operators believe to be too expensive.

Businessmen-fliers would like to see the facilities at the British airports which they use improved in a number of ways.

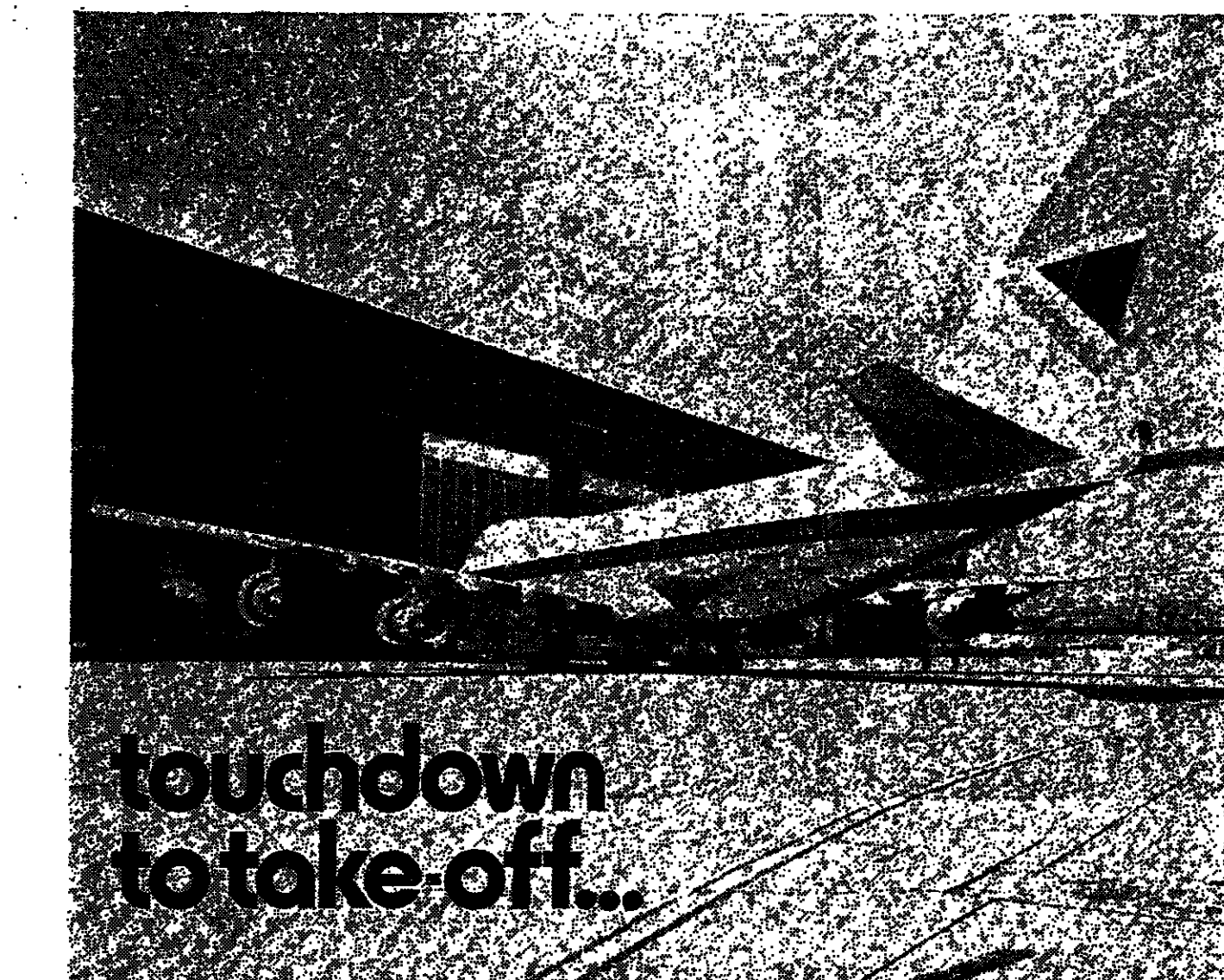
They want, for instance, better terminal facilities, improved and cheaper long-term car parking, quicker and more efficient refuelling, and improved service by the customs and excise.

The customs and excise has recently appointed a team to review customs arrangements for the control of international general aviation. The review was foreshadowed by Mr J. M. Woolf, deputy chairman of customs and excise when he opened the fifth Business and Light Aviation Show at Cranfield, Bedfordshire, in September, and spoke of frustrations felt in the light aircraft industry over the variation of treatment in customs procedures between Britain and Europe.

Britain had moved closer to Europe, and the time was ripe to look again at the controls, Mr Woolf said. The customs team is visiting airports and making contact with the various trade associations representing airport operators and business aircraft users.

Two big difficulties trouble the sector of the general aviation industry which embraces flying training and private and sporting flying. Most of this type of aviation is based at airfields which are owned privately, by companies or by local authorities. As costs rise, the temptation is to sell them off for commercial or industrial use.

Several airfields are under threats of this sort, and with no chance of any new airfields being opened in Britain it is a trend which is worrying the leaders of the light aviation sector.



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## Fast trains link Heathrow with West End

by John Young

On December 16 the Queen is due to open the new Heathrow Central Tube station, the terminus of the extended Piccadilly Line. There are some doubts about whether all the work will be completed in time, but London Transport says doggedly that it sees no reason to postpone the ceremony.

The station forms part of an impressive underground complex which, for the first time, will provide safe and sheltered pedestrian interchange between all three existing terminals. (What happens if and when fourth and fifth terminals are built, well away from the present buildings, which have used up all the available space in the central "diamond", it is probably tactful not to ask.)

How many passengers will use the new Tube link is difficult to forecast until it becomes fully established and publicized. For holiday travellers with a lot of luggage it will probably not have much appeal, whereas the lightly burdened businessman may well find a fast, direct connection with the West End an attractive alternative to the congested road journey.

But the fact that it has taken more than 30 years to provide access to the world's busiest international

airport other than by car or coach betrays an extraordinary lack of coordinated planning.

It is possible, indeed likely, that if the clock could be put back, Heathrow would never be selected as a suitable place for an airport; but, once that decision had been taken, it should surely have been possible to do more than rely solely upon a spur road from a stretch of motorway that was bound inevitably, even without the extra airport traffic, to become one of the busiest in England.

At peak periods the M4 is seriously congested, and many flights are missed by people caught in traffic jams. By 1985 or so, particularly if it is decided to go ahead with new terminal buildings, the difficulties are likely to be far greater.

The British Airports Authority's belated decision to place increasing reliance on Gatwick for scheduled flights, and to divert all charter flights away from Heathrow, only serves to emphasize another glaring inadequacy; namely the lack of satisfactory communications between any of the airports serving London.

A few months ago the authority announced that it was proposing to start an experimental helicopter service between Heathrow and Gatwick. But helicopters can never provide mass transit; they are for those for whom time means money, and who

have plenty of the latter. The failure to link Heathrow with Victoria by a simple addition to British Rail's Southern Region network, and to develop Victoria as a multi-purpose rail/bus/coach/Underground interchange, may well be seen as little short of a planning disaster.

Gatwick is more fortunate than Heathrow, in being served both by a fairly fast and frequent rail service from Victoria and by a spur from the M23. But the M23 stops short of the outermost south London suburbs, petering out in a maze of congested shopping streets; a road journey from Gatwick to say, Stansted, is almost too horrific to contemplate.

Stansted itself, which seems likely to become London's third main airport by default, lies close to the new M11 London to Cambridge motorway; indeed there is more than a suspicion that the motorway was built for that very purpose. Should the Maplin project ever be revived on the scale previously envisaged, there would be strong pressures not only for a new motorway but for a high-speed public transport connection with central London, possibly by mono rail or tracked hovercraft.

The fact is that, as the Roskill Commission tacitly admitted, providing efficient air transport for an area of the size and population of

Greater London and the South-east, in a way that does not conflict with regional planning policies or cause unacceptable environmental damage, is almost impossible. It is ironic that the choice of Maplin, for want of any better alternative, might well have brought enormous economic advantages to east London and the depressed areas of the Thames estuary, albeit at the cost of some environmental losses, but was killed for reasons of cost.

By contrast, the regional airports outside the South-east appear to have few communications drawbacks. Far from being overwhelmed by demand, they are keen to expand their operations and, short of a drastic change in character such as might be induced deliberately at, say, Bristol or the East Midlands (in other words, a provincial airport which could also serve London), present road and rail access seems more than adequate.

Manchester, easily the most important airport outside London, is linked by motorway with the M6 and the M62 and is thus reasonably convenient for most of the North-west and Yorkshire. Possible future congestion between the city and the airport might be relieved by a regular bus or coach service from a main-line station such as Wilmslow, which in turn would be a stopping point for inter-city trains.

Liverpool, were it to be developed as an alternative to Manchester, particularly for charter flights, would probably require some road improvements, but on a modest scale. Birmingham is almost ideally placed, close to the M5 and M6, shortly to be linked by the M42, and close to the National Exhibition Centre and Birmingham International station on the main line between Euston and New Street.

The East Midlands airport at Castle Donington is, again, neatly tucked away within the Midland motorway and trunk road network, and last year's consultation document on airport strategy suggested that only minor road improvements would be necessary to cope with expansion even up to 10 million passengers a year.

Aberdeen, rapidly expanding because of the North Sea oil boom, appears to have adequate access for the foreseeable future. Presumably, something of an anomaly among British airports because of its location and the nature of its traffic, is predominantly international. It is officially considered to present no important communications difficulties, although those who have found themselves in a summer weekend traffic jam on the outskirts of Ayr might take a different view.

The author is Planning Correspondent, The Times.

## Oh, Mister Porter, what shall I do?

by David Woolley

Facilities for flight operations at British airports stand in comparison with those of any other country. The provision of equipment and facilities for passenger and cargo handling is perhaps less good, more from force of circumstance than from any lack of awareness of the customer's needs.

The absence of any national policy for airport development, coupled with the uncertainty that has prevailed in recent years as the Government grappled with the formulation of such a policy, has not created the best climate for investment in airport facilities.

Operationally, certain minimum requirements are laid down and must be met; above that minimum, the inevitable compromise must be made between the ideal and the practicable, bearing in mind the finance available—and, for most British airports, outside the British Airports Authority, finances are tenuous.

Opportunities to develop and install advanced systems for passenger terminals have, moreover, been limited by the fact that few such terminals have been built from scratch in recent years.

The equivalent of the tracked "people-mover" transit system that abounds between terminals at Seattle-Tacoma airport in the United States, or the automated

baggage handling system in the new Swissair terminal at Zurich, to take just two examples, are not to be found in Britain. Had the project for a new airport at Maplin gone ahead, things might have been different.

Nevertheless, plenty of innovation is to be found at British airports, in the terminals as well as on the airfields. Navigational aids and air traffic control services at all the British Airports Authority's airports and at a number of the others are provided by the CAA's unit at Heathrow. The CAA's unit at Heathrow has some of the most advanced equipment.

The airport is the only one in Britain—and one of only a few in the world—to have specialized radar for surveillance of aircraft and vehicles on the ground. In the wake of a recent disaster abroad, demands were heard for the widespread introduction of such radar, but expert opinion is that its chief role is as a tool for the controller in handling complex surface traffic patterns, rather than as a means of preventing collisions. Its cost, moreover, puts it out of the reach of the average airport.

The radar at Heathrow, a Decca ASMI (airfield surface movement indicator), has recently been improved by the addition of a bright display enabling it to be viewed satisfactorily in daylight. Also in the control tower at Heathrow is a Ferranti digital air traffic control simulator, designed to simulate the controller's radar display realistically. Such equipment is not uncommon at centres where en route traffic is controlled, but is rare in an airport control tower. It is used for on-the-spot training.

Secondary radar, which adds data on individual aircraft, such as identity and altitude, to the controller's display, has been in use for some time at major airports but has now been introduced at some smaller ones, such as Luton and Jersey (where both ATC units are operated not by the

CAA but by the airport authorities).

The standard system for providing electronic guidance to pilots during the approach has for many years been the instrument landing system (ILS). Refinement in the system in recent years, particularly with regard to reliability and redundancy, has resulted in installations (known as Category 3 systems) suitable for use in all weather operations. There are at present six Category 3 installations in Britain—four at Heathrow and two at Glasgow.

Development of a microwave landing system (MLS), which is intended as a 1980s replacement for ILS, is progressing. The scene is clouded at the moment by international wrangling over which system, British or American, should be chosen as standard.

MLS is expected to offer important advantages over ILS and to be available both as a Category 3 system and in a cheaper and simpler form for smaller airports. But it is unlikely to supplant ILS for many years.

Complementary to electronic guidance is visual guidance. Widely used around the world is the visual approach slope indicator (VASI) system, originally developed at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, and employing beams of red and white light from projectors placed near the runway threshold to give guidance to the pilot on final approach to land—the colour of the lights indicating whether he is too high or too low.

Recently RAE has produced a new system, PAPI (precise approach path indicator), also using beams of red and white light but expected to be capable of easier and more accurate interpretation. PAPI has been installed for trials at Gatwick.

Such approach guidance systems usually form part of the runway lighting system, a responsibility of the airport authority. The proper functioning of runway lights—and the important task of keeping them clean and free of rubber deposits from

aircraft tyres—is clearly vital to flight safety.

The British Airports Authority has introduced its own twin-engine Shrike Commander aircraft for the flight inspection of visual aids at its seven airports.

Several recent developments have taken place in airfield fire services. A concept gaining ground internationally is "rapid intervention", in which small, high performance crash tenders are deployed to the scene of an accident to "knock down" the incipient fire and establish a rescue path, pending the arrival of the heavier and slower vehicles of the main fire-fighting force.

The British Airports Authority has introduced 14 Chubb Spearhead four-wheel-drive rapid intervention vehicles, designed to carry a 3-ton payload at more than 70 mph and with an acceleration of 0.50 mph in less than 21 seconds.

At the top end of the scale in airfield crash trucks is the Chubb Pathfinder, a 37-ton six-wheel-drive vehicle with a 15-ton payload and a top speed of 60 mph. Two Pathfinders have been supplied to Manchester Airport, and the vehicle has incidentally achieved success in export markets (New York's Kennedy International has bought six).

Electrical ground power is usually supplied to parked aircraft from mobile generators. At Heathrow's terminal one, however, British Airways European Division installed a Houchin fixed system in which central generators supply power by fixed cables to each individual aircraft parking position. It was the first such installation in Britain.

Certain technical problems, chiefly concerned with transmission of alternating current at the high frequency demanded by aircraft systems, had first to be overcome. A second major problem was the installation of the British Airports Authority for installation at Gatwick.

The author is editor, Airports International.

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## We'll take care and get you there

by Arthur Reed

Whether it is Heathrow or the remotest location in the Scottish islands, every British airport must be security-conscious these days.

The recent hijackings of airlines on scheduled services has proved that the industry's guard can never be lowered. The cost of anti-piracy measures at British airports rises continually, and such measures put an additional strain on staff and airport facilities.

There are 28 airports in Britain that are considered both active enough and sufficiently under threat to have a permanent security system installed. The cost of these measures works out at about £15m a year, although it is likely to rise to £19m next year.

The bill for security is at present met by the Government but, as foreshadowed in the Queen's Speech last month, the responsibility for cost is to be transferred to the airports. They will recoup their costs from the airlines, which in turn will recoup theirs from passengers.

The plan is to charge every arriving passenger 50p—a modest enough amount which every traveller would surely be pleased to pay if he were guaranteed safe arrival.

Many would be prepared to pay more for such a guarantee, and opinion in some parts of the British airports industry is that the Government should have set the individual figure higher and

used the extra income to buy additional automatic security equipment.

At too many British airports there is too much reliance—in security searches of passengers and their baggage—on human beings.

Every air passenger is familiar with the distressing process of having his clothing and hand luggage searched by security officers. Automatic devices are on the market which should make such searches obsolete.

Although the findings of such machines have to be interpreted by human beings, the machines themselves do not have "off days", do not have their attention distracted, and can work 24 hours a day if necessary.

Typical of the advanced electronic apparatus on the market, and one which is widely used at British airports, is the International Aeroport Rapidec series of devices which includes a baggage-screening system, a metal-detection gateway, and portable hand-held detectors.

The baggage screening system incorporates a remote-controlled X-ray camera which can pan, tilt and zoom into close-up on any suspicious items which are observed inside a passenger's luggage.

The pictures are produced on a 19in monitor screen of such a high definition that, the company says, the most carefully concealed weapons or terrorist devices are exposed.

An explosives detector is also incorporated into the system with a sensitivity so

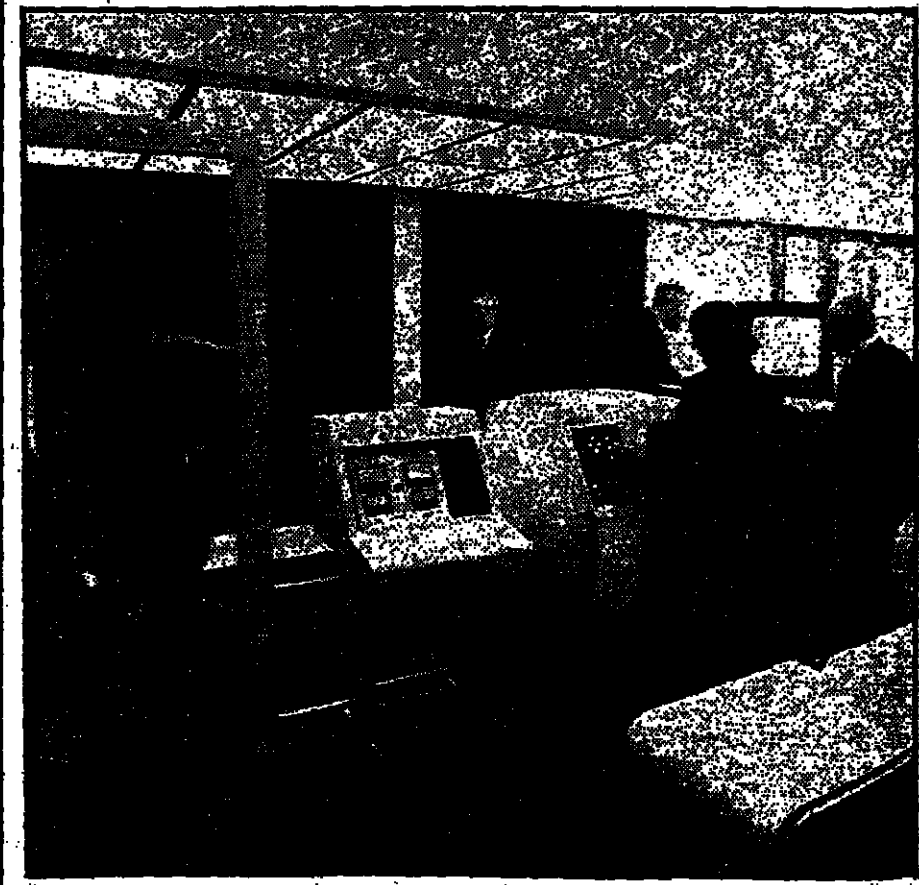
fine that it gives an instant alarm even if there is only a trace of explosive material present. The X-ray and explosives tests are carried out simultaneously and the luggage is ready for picking up by the passenger within a few seconds.

British Airways recently ordered 16 Rapidec systems worth £500,000 for installation in the long-haul terminal three at Heathrow, to bring the total number in use by the airline at Heathrow to 25. The Concord check-in at terminal three has had Rapidec screening since supersonic services began.

Although it is the major part of the vetting of passengers and their baggage at British airports does not constitute the entire security effort. Cargo and mail also need to be screened, the entire "airside" of the airport—the area where the airlines are parked—must be made secure, and outlying sites such as navigational aids, runway lighting and electricity substations, all of which could constitute targets for the air pirate, must be guarded.

Remote-control devices can take care of most of these tasks, but their installation, most effective use, and maintenance call for a great deal of skill.

Aviation security is a highly-specialized business, which would benefit from a greater level of co-operation between those who run the airports, the airlines, government, security firms, systems manufacturers, and all the other parties involved.



This security installation combining X-ray metal detection with vapour tests for explosives is in use at Heathrow.















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**Appointments V**  
also on page 28

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## Going should suit Zongalero

**It is impossible to be dogmatic about the solution to this £10,000 puzzle at the moment. The going is said to be good, but the sky is still overcast and drastic changes**

If I could be sure of his fitness, Broncho II would have been my choice. His recent victory at Nottingham tells us nothing as, starting at 9-4 on he was flat out to beat the moderate

The former American staple chaser, Casamayor, is enjoying his first trip to the White House. On October 1, he romped away with a minor event beating Comedy Errors and a backward Bronco by a wide margin. He then ran Midnight Court to a short head in the second race. He is expected to do so as Fred Winter's first prospect was badly hampered in a crucial stage of the race. Casamayor gained a bloodless victory as Astor in his last outing, and his only northwesterly opponent, Lucius, came to grief. Peter Bailey's seven-year-old is sure to be fighting out the finish.

If there has been plenty

Camacacho was designated Humon Lad's first appearance the season when, totally untried, the six-year-old finished third to Prince Pepe on this course recently. Crump's fluent Texas Park scorer, Ice Plant and Edon Richards's Embargo, who can be suited by the soft ground compose the biggest problems.

John O'Neill can continue to blaze his trail of success by winning the Swift Handicap Steeplechase from the Carlisle winner Stag Party.

Mummy's Rascal and Mel shared the lead in the stages, but Alan Flint was biding his time on the 7th favourite. It was not approaching two flights from that Meadow Monarch took the running and, jumping the last, drew away from his Colindale, who goes to easy in June, said: "I think my best season ever is jumps. I have now had 10 from 22 runners."

Ridley Lamb came in for

who picked Coffee Beans for the third last in the Kindergarten. Mary Handicap Steeplechase drove him home to beat the horse now ridden 38 winners has score at this stage much he won the title seven years ago. Credit is also due to Mary Ham, who was giving the 3 lb and made a valiant

ships go

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Since the interest scheme in February ECD has issued 30 contracts worth £1,000m. In the first six months of this year 20 more contracts were issued worth £1,000m. In 1976 only £2,000m are scheduled.

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 1.2 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015.

the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older is projected to increase from 20 million to 30 million, and the number of people 75 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10 million to 15 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 85 years of age or older is projected to increase from 2 million to 4 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 90 years of age or older is projected to increase from 500,000 to 1 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 95 years of age or older is projected to increase from 100,000 to 200,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 100 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10,000 to 20,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996).

100

هكذا امن الاصل



Portugal: How far should austerity go? page 23

## Anger mounts as orders for fitting out Polish ships go outside Britain

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Correspondent

Contracts for much of the marine equipment for the 24 ships in the £115m British deal with Poland are being placed in Sweden and other European countries.

Britain's marine equipment suppliers, desperately short of work like the shipyards, yesterday attacked the terms of the deal, the particular sin of which was the equipment being manufactured in Poland will be used in British ships.

Mr Donald Maxwell, director of the British Marine Equipment Council, said last night: "It is now emerging that rather more equipment is to be supplied from Poland and from other countries than we were led to believe earlier."

"We feel it is imperative that the Government should clarify what prospects there are for United Kingdom marine equipment companies to participate in this contract."

According to the council, a range of equipment orders have already been placed or are about to be placed outside the United Kingdom. The value is estimated at £11m.

Gearboxes are to be built in Poland using a German licence,

lifeboats and galley equipment are to be supplied from Poland, propellers—including a pack of 10 for the seven large bulk carriers—are to be supplied from Poland using British know-how, winches and other deck machinery is to be manufactured in Norway, sewage treatment and incineration equipment is to be supplied from Sweden and Norway respectively.

An order for deck cranes is understood to have been allocated to another Swedish company.

Many of the council's members are pressing their MPs to question ministers on the allocation of orders.

Mr Jack Graham, director of Stone Manganese Marine, Birkenhead, which manufactures propellers, said that the poor market conditions had already led to about 150 workers being laid off.

The company, he explained, entered into a know-how agreement with a Polish company some time ago and one of the features of the agreement was that the Polish company was prohibited from selling propellers in Britain where the know-how agreement was involved. Legal advice was being sought. Propellers for the seven

16,500 ton deadweight ships being built for Poland would be worth about £300,000, including the likely three spares.

"We are now being told that these propellers will be manufactured in Poland—along with the controllable pitch propellers for the smaller ships which we also have the capacity to make—and not surprisingly our workers are asking why we are not getting the work," he added.

Mr William Ingles, sales director of Brown Brothers, Edinburgh, said: "We always knew that a percentage of equipment would be supplied from Poland but on the information that we have received it is hard to believe that it is less than the 10 per cent which has been mentioned."

British sources say that some of the Scandinavian equipment will cost nearly twice as much as the same equipment manufactured in Britain.

If these ships were being built in France or Norway there would be little prospect of foreign manufacturers obtaining a share, one marine equipment company executive said.

A spokesman for British Shipbuilders said that 90-92 per cent of the contract's content would be British.

## Sterling's rise upsets prospects for exports

By Melvyn Westlake

Weak world demand and an erosion of price competitiveness, partly caused by sterling's strength, is causing Britain's biggest exporters to take a more gloomy forecast of their overseas trade prospects.

Exports are now expected to increase by volume more slowly in the first half of 1978, while a further decline is foreseen in export price inflation beyond the end of 1977.

These are the main features of the Department of Trade's survey of short-term export prospects, conducted during October. The results of the survey, the ninth in the series, were published yesterday.

Replicates to the survey, which covers the period from July 1977 to June 1978, were received from 64 large companies, accounting for a third of the total value of United Kingdom exports.

The results of the ninth survey disclose the same clear pattern of previous surveys in their downward revision of forecasts at about 11 per cent for the second half of 1977 and the first quarter of 1978 are sharply lower than those of the previous survey.

These changes are expected to be about 8 per cent higher in the July-December period of 1977 than a year earlier. This compares with a 13 per cent rise expected at the time of the eighth survey conducted last summer.

The rise in the volume of exports in the first quarter of 1978 is now put at 11 per cent, compared with the 15 per cent foreseen previously.

The latest survey provides the first predictions about the second quarter of next year. These see the volume growth continuing at about 11 per cent. The figures all refer to the extent of the expansion in exports.

They also reveal an unmistakable slowdown, between the second half of 1977 and the first half of 1978. A rise in volume of only 2 or 3 per cent is now thought likely, compared with a probable rise of about 4 per cent between the two halves of the current year.

The Department of Trade reports that a number of large exporters now take a more gloomy view about their prospects.

In addition, there are worries about a loss of export price competitiveness, partly due to the strength of sterling, as well as concern about supply problems.

Leading exporters now see a slower rise in export prices in the final months of 1977 than they did before (compared with the level a year earlier), but the price level is not expected to continue in next year.

Taking volume and price movements together, the value of exports is expected to rise by about 20 per cent up to the level of a year earlier.

## Forced revaluation of mark could boomerang, Bonn bank chief says

From Peter Norman  
Bonn, Dec 8

Dr Oskar Emminger, president of the West German Federal Bank, today gave a warning that the "forced revaluation of the mark" on foreign exchange markets could act as a boomerang against those who had been urging Germany to do more to boost its domestic economy.

He told a meeting of bankers in Bonn that the stimulation of the economy urged on Germany with such insistence by the United States and international organisations would be more difficult than before.

Exports next year would not live up to expectations and, therefore Germany would not be able to play the role envisaged in helping push the economy up.

Instead, lower exports and increased imports would depress profits and put a damper on industrial investment.

He forecast that investment at home would be confined largely to rationalization, while expansion would be concentrated in lower cost countries abroad.

Dr Emminger stressed that in his view the mark was overvalued, in particular against the dollar.

He said that in terms of price and cost relationships, the United States currency was already undervalued compared with the Deutsche mark and other European currencies at the beginning of this year.

"One doesn't need statistics to prove this. It is no coincidence that for some years more and more German companies and those from other European countries have been setting up or acquiring subsidiaries in the United States to serve the American market and other markets at less expense," he said.

Dr Emminger said the Federal Bank would pursue a flexible intervention policy on exchange markets, but he held out little hope that the exchange rate of the Deutsche mark would return swiftly to what he would regard as a realistic level.

The latest show of strength on the foreign exchange markets might be corrected to a certain extent, but Germany may have to live with an exchange rate appreciably above the level that prevailed until the middle of 1977, and for a considerable time.

The public sector, employers



Dr Emminger: lower exports and depressed profits next year.

and unions, and the Federal Bank would have to take account of the new set of circumstances.

In this context, he indicated that the bank would review its interest rate policy. For some months the council of the bank has been divided as to whether to cut the discount rate from its current 3.5 per cent.

Dr Emminger was relatively optimistic about the future of the European joint currency float.

There was no urgent reason to give way to the pressure exerted on the "snake" by developments on the foreign exchange market.

Maintenance of the snake in such uncertain times was of particular economic and political importance for West Germany and he knew that the other members of the joint float wanted to keep it alive.

David Blake writes: There were signs of a change of sentiment towards the dollar on the foreign exchange markets yesterday, in light trading it advanced in several leading financial centres.

At the same time the decision by miners' leaders to abide by the 12-month pay rule and permit pit incentive schemes to go ahead provided sterling with a fillip in the forward markets.

On forward positions up to three months sterling went to a premium against the dollar. The spot rate for the pound closed just 5 points higher on the day, at \$1.8270, having reached a peak during the session of \$1.8365.

## Watchdogs on pay bite hand that feeds them

Officials working from the Department of Employment headquarters in St James's Square, London, and paid out of Civil Service funds are being used to encourage breaches of the Government's 10 per cent pay guidelines.

The secretariat of the Office of Wages Councils, which is independent of the Department but housed and funded by it, has been preparing minimum wage orders for a number of trades and industries which oblige employers to raise minimum wages in their trades—often where the minimum wage is a widespread norm—by significantly more than 10 per cent.

One circular, recently dispatched throughout the country, would, if made into an order under the statutory provision, have already been made to wages councils covering a number of other trades such as butchers, licensed restaurants, retail bookselling and florists. The circular would have been set aside by the councils.

Several ironies arise out of this situation. Not only is the Government paying for the secretariat which deals with the administration of wages council business, it also funds a group of wages inspectors whose job it is to enforce the minimum wage legislation.

Further money is spent on publications designed to ensure that workers who suspect that they might be overpaid know where to apply for a confidential investigation.

Wages councils are statutory bodies, comprising employers, workers' representatives and independent members, whose job is to fix the statutory minimum remuneration and other terms and conditions of employment in trades and industries where normal collective bargaining procedures are restricted or non-existent—such as retail food and furnishing.

Under the rules governing the councils they must, before making an order, insert a notice of their proposals in the *London Gazette* and send notices to every employee within their scope. There is then a 14-day period in which anyone can make "representations."

It is this provision which the Department of Employment has taken advantage of to make its displeasure known. However, once the order has been made it is legally enforceable.

The Government appears to have no way of stopping the increases. It has no power in law to prevent the making of a wages order and seems to have no means to force the wages councils to obey its wishes.

Malcolm Brown

## Unions' plea to Swan Hunter workers

By Our Northern Industrial Correspondent

A direct appeal to Swan Hunter shipyard workers on the Tyne to resume normal working and allow their pay grievances to be dealt with through established negotiating procedures was made by leaders of 19 engineering and shipbuilding unions yesterday.

The national executive of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions met

ing in York unanimously supporting the call to the Tyne workers to abandon their work-to-rule which has led to the yard losing its share of the £115m Polish ship orders.

Mrs Marie Pearson, president of the confederation, said: "We are making it clear that the workers in the outfitting trades at Swan Hunter have the full backing of all of the unions represented here for the demands that they are making."

"At the same time we are in

full agreement in urging them to resume normal working so that these claims can be dealt with by the trade unions through established union procedures."

The Confederation has launched a major drive to rationalise wage structures throughout the shipbuilding industry, moves which the unions believe will help to prevent any recurrence of the kind of "parity" dispute that is now hitting the Tyne shipyard.

## £10m more on its way to Chrysler

By Patricia Corina  
Industrial Editor

A Government payment to Chrysler UK of £10m now looks certain after recent progress reports by the management. These were made under monitoring arrangements set up in the loan agreement agreed last year with the American parent corporation.

The company's losses may exceed £20m in 1977 and the Department of Industry is concerned that it may bear half of any deficit, up to a maximum of £10m.

In March, Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, told the Commons: "A substantial Government loan was agreed for 1976, but we hope that the agreement to share losses in 1977 and 1978 will not have to be put into effect—it may be, but we shall not know until later in the year."

Last month, Chrysler UK management, which has experienced difficulties in maintaining target production at Linwood, Renfrewshire, advised the Government that operations would show losses in the region of £20m, and much of the blame could be traced to industrial problems at the plant.

Behind the scenes, ministers have given firm warnings to trade union leaders that there can be no departure from the original aid arrangements and this must be understood by the Linwood work force.

Representatives of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and the Transport and General Workers Union have been working with the Chrysler management to sort out Linwood's problems, with a working party drawing on top executive representatives.

The purpose of the Government's warnings to union leaders has been to stress its determination to stick firmly to the letter of its rescue commitments. The Chrysler Corporation of America has to bear any losses over and above the formula. All hopes of a modest target profit of £250,000 to £400,000 in 1977 have been dashed, and the company is being hard-pressed to contain losses to its revised forecast of £20m.

Last year, the taxpayer provided £40m in payments towards losses, plus advances relating to a £30m guaranteed loan.

## Engineering claim far exceeds guidelines

By R. W. Shakespear

Britain's engineering employers are facing union claims on behalf of the industry's 1.5 million workers for hefty increase in pay and conditions. Their move represents the first nationwide challenge to the Government's 10 per cent pay rise ceiling in the private sector.

The demands were endorsed yesterday by the national executive of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

Mr Hugh Scanlon, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, will lead the union negotiating team—representing 19 different unions—in the first battle to

secure a new national agreement in engineering since the introduction of phase one of the incomes strategy.

The claim will seek to raise existing minimum rates throughout the industry from £33.60 to £55 a week for unskilled workers and from £42 to £70 a week for skilled men after consolidation of the £5 and 5 per cent increases that were agreed at plant level during phases one and two. It also seeks a shorter working week, longer holiday and other fringe benefits.

At present average earnings for skilled workers are about £55 for a 40-hour week and £73 with overtime. Mrs Marie Pearson of the transport workers' union conceded that the claim would breach the 10 per cent ceiling.

## Nuclear staff warning on AGR commitment

By Roger Vielvoys

Five hundred engineers, scientists and technicians at the Whetstone nuclear complex, many of whom are working on the five advanced gas cooled reactors (AGRs) now under construction, have given a warning to the Government of the dangers of making a further exclusive commitment to the AGR system.

They have told Mr Wedgwood Benn, the Secretary of State for Energy, and the Cabinet's energy committee, that they support the Central Electricity Generating Board's recommendation for the parallel development of both the AGR and the American-designed pressurized water reactors (PWRs).

The resolution on nuclear reactor choice from the joint staff committee at the Nuclear

Power Company and the GEC Reactor Equipment operations at Whetstone was sent to Mr Benn on November 14.

Mr J. McLachlan, secretary of the committee, said yesterday that the resolution was being made public because they had received no response from Mr Benn and felt there had been "a total lack of balance in the comments" reported in the press on the alternative thermal reactors.

The resolution to the Cabinet's energy committee states that a commitment to the AGR alone would put the power industry at an unjustifiable risk in the event of getting into difficulties in the next few years.

Difficulties already encountered during the limited operating experience on the AGR and the many important

modifications to the AGR design needed to meet current safety requirements did not give the confidence necessary to make this commitment.

It was essential that there should be a commitment to construction of at least one PWR to ensure that this system remained a real option in the future.

According to the staff the PWR was the only proven system available. It was also the cheapest; was the only system with export potential and doubts over its safety had been removed by the Nuclear Inspectionate report.

In a covering letter to Mr Benn, Mr McLachlan said the Whetstone staff were "almost universal" in advising that there should not be a singular commitment to AGR.

They were in a difficult position, he said, as they were dedicated to the success of the five station AGR programme but had reservations about placing total reliance on the AGR in future.

The AGR was also likely to cost 15 per cent more than the PWR which would amount to £75m on a 1200 megawatt station.

Mr McLachlan said that in advanced technology there was an immense benefit to be gained by being in the main stream of international power plant business, both from technical support in the widest sense and in involvement in the international manufacture and construction work.

The AGR could not form the basis for such international involvement while the PWR was an internationally accepted power plant.

## TV makers rallying behind Mullard

By Derek Harris  
Commercial Editor

Consultations opened yesterday on a plan for increased orders from British television set manufacturers to safeguard Mullard, now Britain's sole producer of colour television tubes. It follows the shelving by Hitachi, the Japanese electronics group, of plans to set up television assembly in North-east England.

The plan was originally put forward by the Radio Industry Council to the Department of Industry when RIC was joining in the chorus of opposition to the Hitachi proposals.

Talks expected to last some weeks have now started among the major British makers on stepping up orders for Mullard components at the expense of imports, mainly of tubes, largely from Pacific basin and United States sources. For some makers it could mean a 50 per cent increase use of Mullard tubes.

The RIC plan was claimed to guarantee Mullard a level of production which would allow it to remain viable. This implies an increase of around 400,000 tubes a year to British makers who would then be using Mullard tubes for 60 to 65 per cent of their requirements.

Preparations are going ahead for Mullard to set up a new production line at its Simonstone, Lancashire, factory for 90 degree in-line tubes which, because they are cheaper overall, are still popular with British makers.

Hitachi at its Tokyo headquarters is expected in the next few weeks to review its strategy for securing a television market, securing foothold in the EEC market. While it has not completely closed the door to re-applying for permission to open a factory in Britain, location elsewhere in the EEC now seems more likely if the company feels it must act quickly.

Given that the PAL licensing agreement insists on an export selling of 50 per cent of production, it is necessary to locate where there is a large home market. This is why West Germany, although labour costs would be higher, would appear to be the next best choice for Hitachi.

There is increasing speculation in the British industry that Hitachi might consider a takeover to establish a foothold in Britain. There has been speculation that Rank, although it has around 9 per cent of the market, may want to pull out because few manufacturers are making profits.

The other possibility is that Hitachi might pursue a carbon copy deal similar to that in the United States with General Electric in which, in a 50-50 joint venture, the two companies will manufacture and market television products there.

## Clash over purchase by Landesbank

From Our Own Correspondent  
Bonn, Dec 8

North Rhine Westphalia, the West German state, is seeking greater control over the foreign activities of the Düsseldorf-based Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale after a row with the bank's board over the purchase of a property in London.

The dispute has arisen because the state, one of the bank's guarantors, feels it was not sufficiently informed about the decision to spend DM24m (£2m) on purchasing a building in the City near the Bank of England to house its London branch.

The purchase was put to the bank's supervisory council last Friday, and the four representatives of the state who were present abstained. The purchase was approved by the other council members without a vote against it.

Since then the state's anger at the procedure has grown. The government in Düsseldorf apparently feels itself a *primus inter pares* among the bank's guarantors.

North Rhine Westphalia's cabinet yesterday ordered the state finance minister to ensure that the foreign activities of the Westdeutsche Landesbank are kept under review so that the state is aware of any risks involved.

Several ironies arise out of this situation. Not only is the Government paying for the secretariat which deals with the administration of wages council business, it also funds a group of wages inspectors whose job it is to enforce the minimum wage legislation.

## Lower start for ECGD bond support scheme

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has lowered the value of contracts qualifying for the bond support scheme from £1m to £500,000. The support will be available on cash or near-cash terms.

Since the introduction of the scheme in February 1975 the ECGD has issued 80 guarantees for contracts worth more than £1,200m. In the first 10 months of this year 51 guarantees worth £950m were issued, compared with 29 in 1976. Contracts worth £3,000m are under consideration.

## How the markets moved

The Times Index: 204.91 +0.82  
The FT Index: 4852 -0.1

## THE POUND

| Bank            | Bank   | Bank   |
|-----------------|--------|--------|
| Australia \$    | 1.66   | 1.61   |
| Austria Sch     | 13.75  | 13.75  |
| Belgium Fr      | 65.00  | 65.00  |
| Canada \$       | 2.04   | 1.99   |
| Denmark Kr      | 11.32  | 10.92  |
| Finland Mk      | 7.80   | 7.55   |
| France Fr       | 6.55   | 6.55   |
| Germany Dm      | 4.15   | 3.93   |
| Greece Dr       | 76.00  | 73.00  |
| Hongkong \$     | 8.80   | 8.35   |
| Italy Lr        | 162.00 | 157.00 |
| Japan Yn        | 465.00 | 448.00 |
| Netherlands Gld | 4.45   | 4.26   |
| Norway Kr       | 10.00  | 9.63   |
| Portugal Esc    | 78.50  | 74.50  |
| S Africa Rd     | 1.80   | 1.78   |
| Spain Pes       | 157.00 | 152.00 |
| Sweden Kr       | 9.00   | 8.63   |
| Switzerland Fr  | 4.06   | 3.84   |
| US \$           | 1.87   | 1.82   |
| Yugoslavia Dnr  | 36.75  | 34.25  |

## Producers set minimum price for bauxite

By Edward Townsend

A minimum price policy for bauxite, the ore from which aluminium is smelted, was agreed at a meeting in Jamaica yesterday by the 11-nation International Bauxite Association.

The agreement comes after four years of deliberations and sets a minimum price for base grade bauxite in the north American market, "for reference purposes" of \$24 a tonne.

For other world markets, producers are urged to seek appropriate relative prices.

A significant increase in world bauxite prices is unlikely to result but the move sets a precedent from which an IBA official said "there is no way back."

The IBA said the bauxite price in north America should normally be 2.5 to 3 per cent of the list price of primary aluminium. However, the new \$24 minimum equals 2.1 per cent of the current American domestic metal price of 53 cents a pound.

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## To the Ordinary Shareholders of THE BRITISH INVESTMENT TRUST

Limited

The Offer from NCBPF is neither generous nor attractive and is a blatant attempt to buy your Company far too cheaply

- ★ It ignores £17 million of your assets in BIT.
- ★ NCBPF's much advertised minimum price of 165p per share has never been more than 2½% above the estimated formula value of the Offer and on some days it has been below.
- ★ On 7th December the estimated formula value of the Offer was **164.4p** per share
- ★ On 7th December the estimated going concern value of BIT was **191.9p** per share

Your Directors will not be accepting the Offer for their own beneficial shareholding.

YOU TOO SHOULD REJECT THE OFFER

DO NOT BE PRESSURED INTO ACCEPTING IT!

This statement has been issued by Robert Fleming & Co. Limited on behalf of The British Investment Trust Limited, 7th December, 1977 was the latest practicable date before publication of this statement. The directors of the Board of The British Investment Trust Limited have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed in this statement are true and accurate and all Directors jointly and severally accept responsibility accordingly.



# 'Hundreds of thousands' of jobs lost because of record volume of goods from abroad

## American unions intensify pressure for import controls

From Frank Vogel  
Los Angeles, Dec 8

America's trade union movement is intensifying its campaign for more protectionist trade policies, arguing that hundreds of thousands of jobs are being lost because the Carter Administration continues to permit the inflow of record volumes of imports.

Demand for greater protectionism ranks alongside the continuing call for more expansionist policies to promote employment as the top priorities for hundreds of trade union leaders assembling here for the twelfth bi-annual conference of the AFL-CIO—the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations.

In the introduction to the executive council's 410-page report to the conference, Mr George Meany, the AFL-CIO president, declared that the government was permitting "unrelenting foreign imports dumped on the American market at lower prices than those charged in the country of origin—coupled with policies that encourage American companies to move abroad."

Mr Meany added that just as the United States cannot afford to be dependent on foreign energy supply, so it cannot afford to be dependent on foreign nations.

Numerous trade union leaders, representing a wide assortment of industries, complain that the Administration's anti-protectionist stance is the major obstacle to achieving higher domestic employment.

They say that the orderly marketing agreements to protect the domestic shoe and colour television industries were too little and too late.

Mr Lloyd McBride, president of the steel workers' union, has said that the government's new plan to help the steel industry and shield it from foreign competition is inadequate. He said his union "will continue to press for quota-setting orderly marketing agreements, and if voluntary relief cannot be obtained, we will demand Congressional action establishing legislated quotas."

Mr Lane Kirkland, secretary-general of the AFL-CIO, told a meeting of shipping industry union leaders that the fight would continue to get legislation that insures that American shipping carries a greater portion of American imports.

Mr Kirkland said that the "runaway ship, cutthroat foreign competition, the dumping of maritime services and the destruction of sailors' jobs have their

counterpart in what is happening to industry after industry—in steel, apparel, textiles, shoes, rubber, electronics, even prefabricated light and heavy construction components."

Unions are demanding the replacement of Dr Arthur Burns as head of the Federal Reserve Board, arguing that his tight money policies are adding to unemployment. They are also demanding more public works programmes, and are clearly disenchanted with Mr Carter's failure so far to achieve fuller employment.

Moreover, some leaders point out that their unions are determined to use all their substantial muscle in the 1978 congressional elections to support candidates who support trade protectionism and more expansionist economic policies.

## Datsun registrations poised for 1978 surge

By Edward Townsend

Datsun UK, which has imposed a ban on further registrations of its cars for the remainder of the year, hinted yesterday that its dealers would be given a much freer rein in 1978.

A spokesman for the company, whose cars made the market in the first 11 months of 1977 at 6.4 per cent more for the same period of 1976, said it would be difficult for dealers to operate next year under the sort of restrictions in force during 1977.

In addition to this month's ban, Datsun has rationed its dealers in previous months to try to keep its market share at about the same level as last year and save off the growing pressure for import controls on Japanese cars.

Dealers have continued to sell cars this month, but only for delivery after the new year. The spokesman said there was a healthy demand for vehicles to be delivered after December 31. Stocks at dealers are said to be "very substantial".

but Datsun is being cautious about predicting a high sales level for January.

Japanese penetration of the market in the 11 months was 10.8 per cent, according to figures released today by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, compared with 9.5 per cent to the end of November last year.

The "understanding" between the British and Japanese industries is that Japanese penetration would not rise significantly this year. United Kingdom sources feel that this year's rate of 1.3 percentage points, representing sales of 20,000 more cars, is in breach of the arrangement.

The Datsun ban, however, will reduce its 1977 market share from the 11-month figure and consequently the total Japanese share. Its November share was 5.2 per cent, against 4.3 per cent a year earlier.

Datsun said because of the loss of sales to other Japanese importers, particularly Mazda and Toyota, and to European manufacturers like Renault.

## Plea to relax audits for small firms

Mr Ian Hay Davison, a leading accountant and member of the profession's Auditing Practices Committee, yesterday called for a change in company law to end the requirement for a full audit for small companies.

## Community sees steel capacity below 60pc

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, Dec 8

In its latest quarterly estimate of the outlook for the EEC steel industry, the European Commission forecasts production of 22 million tonnes in the first quarter of next year, slightly below the last quarter of 1977.

New orders for steel in the Community's market are running at 15 per cent below the 1976 level. Exports have recovered notably in volume terms during the year, and are almost back to their 1974 level, but export prices are 40 to 50 per cent lower than in 1974.

In general, most plants are expected to have observed the guideline prices for steel recommended earlier this year by the Commission, although the prices of some products have remained below these levels. By contrast, import prices are well below the guideline levels, the gap ranging between £35 and £45 on the German market.

Demand for steel within the Community has declined sharply since the beginning of the year, and is forecast to drop to 28 million tonnes in the first quarter of next year, slightly below the last quarter of 1977.

The forecast, which is intended as a guide for steel exporters to help them tailor output to likely demand, was drawn up some weeks ago, and is even now considered by Commission officials to be too generous.

The rate of capacity utilization in nearly all EEC countries is expected to be well below 60 per cent by the end of the year. It is expected to decline still further in the early part of 1978, leading to temporary closure of steel plants and a rise in short-time working.

## EEC raw material warning

By Desmond Quigley

Urgent action by governments and the European Community is needed to stimulate mining houses to embark on investments in less developed countries in order to ensure a sufficient supply of raw materials to European industry, Mr Reville Paine, retiring president of the Mining Association and an executive director of Charter Consolidated, said yesterday.

Investment of some \$24,000m (£13,333m) over the next decade, or \$2,400m a year, was required to maintain supplies of the chief non-ferrous metals to Europe. By contrast the total expenditure of mining companies during the last decade and the early part of the

1970s had averaged only \$400m.

Mining companies had slowed their investment programmes in less developed countries because of lack of confidence on the part of governments and operations were "especially vulnerable to risks of creeping expropriation".

To overcome these problems, the European mining industry, he said, had proposed that a "European Mining Fund" be set up within the framework of treaty agreements governing relations between the EEC, member states and the host governments.

Mr Paine also called for finance to be made available at market rates linked directly to the mining project.

## Deeper pound restrained summer inflow of tourists

By Patricia Tisdall

A hint that growth in foreign tourist arrivals may be slackening is reflected in the latest results produced by the Department of Trade and the British Tourist Authority yesterday.

The figures show that while there was a rise of 23 per cent in overseas visitors in July compared with the same month last year, by August the growth rate, although still high, had dropped to 14 per cent.

Contributing factors included a strengthening of the sterling exchange rate and the strike of the assistant air traffic controllers, the effects of which continued through to early November.

Central London stores, which

## Community sees steel capacity below 60pc

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The rate of capacity utilization in nearly all EEC countries is expected to be well below 60 per cent by the end of the year. It is expected to decline still further in the early part of 1978, leading to temporary closure of steel plants and a rise in short-time working.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The contentious role of Acas in trade union recognition

From Mr Paul Nicholson

Sir, May I add a few more insights to Eric Wigham's "Blurred vision on union recognition" (December 6). Acas is at the centre of a clash of expectations about its role.

Some of the white collar unions affiliated to the Trades Union Congress expected the law to achieve for them, through Acas, recognition from employers which they had failed to achieve for themselves without Acas. So nearly 1,000 references of recognition issues were handed into Acas since February 2, 1976 when they opened for that sort of business.

Ninety two of those references have been reported and 343 have been withdrawn. A reference is withdrawn if the employer and the union settle on recognition or when the union withdraws its request. Acas is not publishing statistics on reasons for withdrawal of references.

Many workers have expectations about the role of Acas in a democratic society. When Acas ascertains their opinions about which union, if any, shall represent

them to the employers, they expect those opinions to be decisive. However, Acas has cut across those expectations by, in some cases, granting in some cases full negotiating rights and, in others, refusing the same to majorities. The reason given by Acas for its inconsistency is that the opinions of the workers are not decisive but merely part of the relevant evidence.

Unions which are not affiliated to the Trades Union Congress do not expect fair treatment from Acas. They do expect, and have received, fair treatment from the courts. They can expect to end up in the High Court or the House of Lords whenever they tangle with Acas on a recognition issue. Such an appeal is a necessary safeguard in any circumstances.

Small employers have expectations about how they will manage their companies and the effect the recognition of trade unions will have on their economic success. They read the list of members of the council of Acas which will decide to recommend or not to recommend the recognition of a trade union

and which, as a matter of fact, is biased in favour of the Trades Union Congress; then they look at British Leyland; then they dig in. There is too much truth in that caricature of the expectations of small employers.

The existing law on trade union recognition can carry impartial administration and wise judgment. This was made very clear by Mr Justice Byrne-Wilkinson when he found in favour of the Legal and General Staff Association and against Acas. The council of Acas has enough discretion to act impartially without forcing aggrieved unions or employers into the courts for justice.

Sadly, and sometimes with very serious consequences, nobody expects Acas to be impartial or wise when it is dealing with trade union recognition.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL NICHOLSON  
General Secretary,  
Confederation of Employee Organisations,  
20 High Street,  
Wetherham, Leics.  
St Albans,  
Herts/Bedfordshire AL4 8DG,  
December 7.

### Contracted-out pension 'burden'

From Mr M. J. Brown

Sir, I think you may have underestimated the burden on contributions to the state scheme for those contracted-out (December 2) that the long-term costs of the new state pension scheme look likely to be a much bigger burden on the contributors than the cost of the new scheme in February, 1975.

It is important, therefore, that those who have decided to contract out or those who are now debating whether to contract out should be reassured that no new and adverse factor has emerged at this late stage.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL BROWN,  
Director,  
Company Pensions Information Centre,  
7 Old Park Lane,  
London W1J 3LJ,  
December 6.

this purpose will fall over the years and so the reduction in contributions to the state scheme for those contracted-out will also fall. But this has been spelt out all along, and was made clear by the Government in its initial report on the new scheme in February, 1975.

It is important, therefore, that those who have decided to contract out or those who are now debating whether to contract out should be reassured that no new and adverse factor has emerged at this late stage.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL BROWN,  
Director,  
Company Pensions Information Centre,  
7 Old Park Lane,  
London W1J 3LJ,  
December 6.

### EEC imports of textiles from Hongkong

From Mr Anthony Holland

Sir, I have read with interest the chairman of the Wool Textile Delegation's letter of December 5 regarding imports from Hongkong and I beg to suggest he is smacking his arrows at the wrong target.

Hongkong is a free market and has always presented wonderful opportunities for selling British cloth and ranks among the woolen industries better markets.

Two far better targets would be total ban on textile imports from both Taiwan and South Korea until such time as they are prepared to import EEC-produced textiles for which, from personal experience, I know there would be very substantial demand. Both have very satisfactory trading balances with the EEC and the reasons for the bans are entirely protectionist.

Let us be fair to those who are fair to us.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY HOLLAND,  
Chairman,  
The Lincoft Kilgour Group Limited,  
78 Warwick Street,  
London, W1.

### Insider dealing in shares

From Sir Anthony Hornby

Sir, It would seem that if the new proposals about share dealing become law in their present form, only those stockholders who buy shares for their clients in companies about which they know nothing or which are likely to go down will keep out of prison.

Only the buyer of Premium

bonds—the pure gambler—will be safe and respectable. The rest must either use a pin or be condemned to uninspired uniformity.

Yours truly,  
ANTHONY HORNBY,  
Chairman,  
Clairidge,  
London, W1,  
Brook Street,  
December 1.

## PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

IN PARLIAMENT SESSION 1977-78

Notice is hereby given that the Bill for the purpose of the following works:

In the parish of St. Andrew, in the county of Devon: Work No. 1. A road from the parish of St. Andrew to the parish of St. Andrew, in the county of Devon.

In the parish of St. Andrew, in the county of Devon: Work No. 2. A road from the parish of St. Andrew to the parish of St. Andrew, in the county of Devon.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Crystal-gazing at J Lyons

First-half profits from J Lyons demonstrate forcibly the kind of uphill task it faces, to trade its way out of the balance sheet strait-jacket. Making such tiny profits on its level of turnover, so the argument runs, means that it takes only a small improvement in margins to transform trading profits.

But contrary to group hopes in June the trading improvement still looks to be some way in the future. Adding back last year's exceptional item from running in the Carlton bakery, pre-tax profits are up from £6.34m to £6.58m although asset disposals in the year (Wimpy, the hotels side) have lopped some £2.2m (leaving £4.38m at the pre-tax level) off trading profits which are up from £15.97m to £16.15m in the first half.

As it is, the past summer cut some £1.15m from the 12p dividend and soft drinks side of the United Kingdom, while in the United States with Redskins-Robbins standing still the strengthening of sterling has cut dollar profits.

So far as the second-half goes, reading between the lines of the interim statement indicates that the group is taking a distinctly jaundiced view of the outlook with pressure on consumer spending and plummeting tea prices the chief aggravating factors.

The plus point comes in lower interest charges of perhaps £4m but at this stage the most that can be said is that earlier hopes of a £20m pre-tax profit for the year will have to be scaled back by a fifth to leave the shares at 105p selling on around seven times this year's earnings. Although the group appears not to be too sanguine about the dividends this year a maintained dividend provides the comfort of a 11.1 per cent yield.

Asset disposals and the strengthening of sterling has taken much of the pressure off the balance sheet and a "worthwhile" reduction in debt suggests something like £215.22m by the year end but it is still a long way from getting gearing down to 50 per cent of shareholders' funds which is Lyons' aim in the medium-term.

### Gus Switching emphasis

Great Universal Stores' growth has been squarely based for the last three years on overseas earnings and results from its financial division. Now, with lower interest rates and firmer sterling turning against these operations, the pendulum has swung, and GUS is relying more on its British retailing performance.

Interim profits, growth of 15 per cent to £53m on a 12.5 per cent sales increase to £566m, partly reflects improved efficiency in mail order businesses and some flow-through of deferred HP profits.

Outlets which benefit from tourism, including Burberry and the Scotch House, have also moved along strongly while Cavendish Woodhouse has made good progress in popular furniture.

Full-year profits of around £130m against £112m last year would produce a p/e ratio of 12.1 while the yield will be a mere 3.5 per cent prospectively with the shares at 241p.

### Investment trusts Ingenuity from Chieftain

The investment trust machinery faces its first predatory unification. Shareholders in Second Broadmount, an independent £4m trust, are being asked to swap their shares for units in a new fund set up by Chieftain, one of the newer and hungrier unit trust management companies. Chieftain is nearly falling over itself to delight in its own cleverness. However, its rather cheeky approach, which has drawn no comment from the Second Broadmount board, does appear to have disposed of the thornier fiscal problems associated with so many schemes for eliminating the discount.

The immediate gain to shareholders would

consist of raising the market value from a pre-bid 30p per share to around 37p worth of units reflecting the present asset value of the underlying portfolio. The individual will face no capital gains tax liability on swapping his shares for units, as he does in the case of a liquidation or cash offer.

Chieftain's proposals also circumnavigate the fiscal pitfalls of the corporate side. Straight liquidation involves a trust paying capital gains on its portfolio. A merger into an existing unit trust involves equalizing the contingent capital gains between the original unitholders and the new investors.

Chieftain proposes to reconstitute Second Broadmount as a new fund, which avoids the problem. A new management group such as Chieftain, which is still expanding its range of funds, can afford to adopt this approach. The board is unlikely to welcome it as far as its personal holdings of around 10 per cent are concerned, but the directors who control over a third of the stock non-beneficially may have to adopt a more objective line in their role as trustees of this large stake.

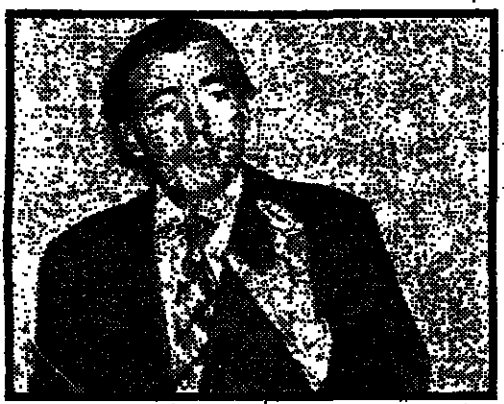
The obvious problem, assuming Chieftain gets the external party general meeting in steps plus enough votes for voluntary liquidation, is the likely level of redemptions in the new trust. Second Broadmount's portfolio, while spread thinly over a large number of stocks, is very marketable. Unless the new managers find themselves caught in a market collapse, shareholders should be able to get out at the calculated bid price of just over 36p.

### Takeovers

#### Progress on price sensitive information

The acid test of any regulatory system is whether it works. Six months after the Takeover Panel and the Stock Exchange together drafted new guidelines, designed to prevent share prices moving before important announcements such as takeover bids, the Panel is tentatively suggesting that the system is working quite well.

Whether, under the new guidelines, leakage of price-sensitive developments has actually fallen is unfortunately impossible to tell. There are no previous statistics to compare with. But it is clear that companies have been seeking temporary suspensions more often, and the Panel's figures show that in only 17 cases out of 133 did companies make preliminary announcements about bid talks after the share price had begun to move.



Mr. David Macdonald, director-general of the Takeover Panel.

The Panel thinks this is "encouraging", but it is clearly one of those statistics which can be taken either way. Is there much room for satisfaction in the fact that 13 per cent of all bids in the past six months should have been accompanied by evidence circumstantial or otherwise, that price-sensitive information had leaked?

The essence of the new guidelines (much of which was, in fact, reiteration of existing rules) was that companies should themselves be responsible for blocking leakages, and should make announcements as soon as the numbers involved in bid talks grew too large. By the same token it was appreciated that premature announcements could frighten off would-be bidders, but there is no convincing evidence that this has been happening.

In 31 cases, one in four of all bids, announcements were made before any movement in share prices, but of these only five were called off subsequently, representing less than 5 per cent of total bids announced.

Economic crisis played a large part in bringing down the Portuguese government and that fall is likely to bring about a new period of uncertainty which will make it harder for the country to solve its economic problems.

For although there is a range of political issues behind the decision of the right wing and Communist parties to bring down the government of the Socialists led by Dr Mario Soares, at the heart of the immediate crisis is the debate about the degree of austerity that the country should accept and what it should do in its talks with the International Monetary Fund.

It has been growing clear for some time that Portugal would probably be the first test case for the IMF's attitude to imposing conditions in talks with would-be borrowers. Although the amount of money the Fund has been offering Portugal is derisory compared with its problems (\$50m compared with an expected deficit this year of about \$1,000m to \$1,500m), the talks with the fund have assumed crucial importance.

For behind the fund stands a club of 13 potential creditor countries who between them have agreed, sometimes under heavy American pressure, to lend the Portuguese \$750m if Portugal can agree terms with the IMF on a series of measures of resources from the fund.

That money is essential to Portugal; the country's reserves have been stripped to the gold component over recent years, leaving clean dollar reserves of about \$100m. The IMF has been pushing the country to improve its balance of payments in the short term because of the relative illiquidity of the assets which it possesses. Foreign debts are about \$3,500m, with little prospect of borrowing more from commercial banks unless the country gets a seal of approval from the international authorities and from the club of countries which has agreed in principle to lend money.

The country has thus become in practice a test bed for many of the ideas which have been

floated in recent years about the need to coordinate all kinds of lending to deficit countries. Under the rather stern eye of the fund's staff, it has also become a testing ground for the notion that countries in deficit can and must adopt a "new programme of adjustment" to reduce their deficits in return for receiving aid.

The need for stability is obvious, but so are the problems which stand in the way of any government which tries to impose sharp cuts in living standards.

The case for stabilization is clearly strong. Inflation is running at about 30 per cent and shows no sign of easing during 1978 unless something is done about it. Although 1977 was meant to be the year in which the world's work and austerity would start, in practice the economy has not been applied and the calls by the government to increase productivity have met little response.

The result has been that the economy as a whole has gone on expanding quite rapidly, but with a rise in consumption continuing to provide the main driving force. Government spending this year is up by a quarter, while the revenue which it raises has gone by only about 10 per cent.

This broadly expansionary stance has certainly increased output. Gross national product is likely to rise by about 6 per

cent this year compared with 4 per cent in 1976 and a 3 per cent fall in 1975. But little of that growth has taken the form of investment, though there has been some recovery in recent months from the very low levels touched in 1975.

Even more disturbing, there has been little in the way of an upturn in investment in the sectors on which the country relies to provide its exports, because these are still overwhelmingly in private hands. Although the Portuguese government owns just over half of all industry (and at present accounts for 70 per cent of new investment) something like 90 per cent of exports come from the private sector.

The private companies, in industries such as textiles, are undercapitalized and unsure of their role. In the present world recession, with low cost producers from developing countries desperate to sell on world markets, the sharp increase in wage costs which coincided with the move to democracy in 1974 has put them at a desperate disadvantage.

The position of agriculture is little better, with a huge workforce (accounting for about 30 per cent of the employed population) failing to produce enough to meet even half the country's food needs. Part of the shortfall is caused by climate, which means that most grain has to be brought abroad; part is caused by general inefficiency, as most strictly 1975 the fishing industry; and part by the specific bad luck of a bad harvest this year.

The country's response to these shortages, and to other shortages as well, has been to import more from outside rather than to cut back, and it is this which has attracted the particular censure of the IMF and of some of the countries who will be asked to contribute to the loan. In the talks between Portugal and her potential creditors the fund seems to have taken a tough line, calling for a substantial devaluation of the escudo, a much tighter monetary policy



Planting seedlings on a forestry and pulp mill project at Leirosa. Portugal. The country's living standards are still well below the average for the rest of Western Europe.

with higher interest rates and a cutback in growth. Opposition to the fund's terms has been widespread within the country, for a large number of reasons. Devaluation, which has long been a preferred strategy of the fund in dealing with payments deficits, will increase the country's very large import bill, worsening the payments position until consumption starts to drop.

It will also give a new and intense twist to inflation. The restrictions on credit will lead to a large number of bankruptcies in the private sector, throwing even more people out of work to join the 16 per cent of the population who are already unemployed. A sharp cut in living standards, which the fund's programme is basically about to impose, will strain the fragile hold which democracy now has.

Living standards and output per head are still well below the level of the rest of Western Europe at about one third of the level of the United Kingdom, with widespread poverty still a problem. Although the

country went on a minor spending spree in 1974 and 1975, it has still been forced to accept a standard of life far below that of most of its neighbours.

Portugal's real problem is that during the years of Salazar rule it missed out on the modernization and industrialization which occurred everywhere else in Europe, including Spain, where the political system was in many ways similar.

It is now trying to modernize, with some spectacular (and possibly wasteful) large projects designed to give it a sound industrial base at a time when the world is a very difficult environment for countries even to hold on to what they already have, let alone improve on their position.

Adding the strain of making the very rapid adjustment implied by the IMF's demands has now proved too much for the country's first democratically elected government. We shall see very soon whether it is also too much of a strain for the democratic system there itself.

## A microprocessor about the house

Kenneth Owen  
Technology  
Correspondent

New concepts of entertainment and information in the home are likely to appear over the next five years. They arise from developments in micro-electronics and are likely to emerge as a family of related units based on the television set and the telephone.

Some of the new developments are already known. The broadcasting organizations' Teletext services providing a range of scales and pages of information have moved on from experimental to routine use. The Post Office's Viewdata scheme, which will enable users to dial a wide range of directory services for display on the television screen, starts a public trial next year.

Each of these depends on an outside source for the information displayed—Teletext news pages compiled in the broadcasting organization's Viewdata files supplied by the organizations that provide information and held in a Post Office computer centre.

By contrast, many of the new systems will be contained in the home. The popular video games box, through which "tennis" and "football" and so on can be played on the television screen, is an early example of a device of this kind.

As with the pocket calculators and the digital watches of the past five years, the new home devices of the next five will depend on micro-circuits and in particular on the microprocessor (whose applications in data processing were described in this column on October 14).

As with the calculators and watches, the prospect is of high-volume production of the microprocessors (which can carry the power of a small computer on a

chip of silicon no bigger than a fingernail) and a consequent fall in prices.

Dr Stephen Forte, managing director of General Instrument Microelectronics, Glenrothes, forecast in London yesterday: "The microprocessor will enter the home disguised as a cooker-timer, a washing machine control, a television games system, a central heating controller or a Teletext/Viewdata decoder. He was speaking at a conference organized by the magazine Electronics Weekly on the impact of electronics."

As Viewdata developments begin to transform the telephone handset into a rudimentary computer terminal, the modulator-demodulator (modem) unit, which is needed to connect digital devices to the telephone network, can shrink to the size of a single integrated circuit. This could make possible the remote, automatic reading of electricity and gas meters via the telephone.

Among the new possibilities in the living room Dr Forte mentioned the recently introduced electric piano, a simple version of which, selling for less than £100, can be plugged into an existing hi-fi system. Unlike existing types of electronic organ, the circuit for the electric piano can produce a sense of touch and simulates the sound of a hammer-action instrument.

But the biggest impact of digital technology in the living room has to do with the television set. Dr Forte says that this "will cause a social revolution in the home, transforming the passive television set in the corner into an 'interactive' terminal for use by all the family."

Already microelectronics has made possible remote control (initially ultrasonic, more recently moving to infrared frequencies) of television sets, including advanced tuning features. There is no reason why the virtues of this pre-set digital tuning and remote control should not be applied to audio systems, too.

In fact, the semi-conductor industry is now able to incorporate a wide range of measuring, sensing and control systems in only one or two integrated-circuit packages. Now the aim is to link these further with the television set—a sophisticated and highly refined piece of electronics which at present is grossly under-utilized."

The first volume-selling video game, like the single-chip calculator before it, created a new industry almost overnight. Sales of the microcircuits for this game, developed by Dr Forte's company at Glenrothes, have exceeded 10 million units since the device was introduced only two years ago.

More advanced games have since been introduced. They include battle games and ball games in which fuller and more subtle control can be exercised. These all use circuits which are "dedicated" to particular types of games. But, for the future, advantage will be taken of the

programmable nature of the microprocessor.

To accommodate the programmes and exploit the full possibilities, a new method of storage combining high capacity with low cost is needed. Dr Forte believes that this will come via the standard tape cassette, a development which is being pursued jointly by General Instrument Microelectronics and EMI.

The addition of numeric keyboards and other programme devices could lead to calculators in which the complete sequence of calculation is displayed on the television screen. All the elements of a complete, interactive computer terminal are possible.

What is emerging, and the emergence may be very rapid, is a range of plug-in optional extras for the home television receiver.

## Business Diary: Wiggin changes direction • Victory rolls

Ray Wiggin, the British motor industry's longest serving managing director, and one of the most experienced, is stepping down from the top job at Reliant Motors, the Tamworth car company recently taken over by J. F. Nash Securities.

Wiggin appears not to have been totally in agreement with the policies of the new owner, although he has spent the last two years building up a new young management team to take over in the event of his departure.

He told Business Diary yesterday that he had received an offer from a small group of companies "a couple of years ago". At that time Reliant was making a loss, the Scimitar was being launched and the three-wheeler market was in the doldrums. "It would have looked as if I was deserting."

Wiggin is now interested in a job which will also give him a greater equity stake than his 6 per cent in Reliant. "I do like to get very committed and dedicated to the business in which I am involved," he said.

When he joined Reliant in 1953, Wiggin, now 49, was assistant managing director of a company with a turnover of £60,000 and a labour force of 250. Today Reliant employs 1,600, has a turnover of £20m and is known as the company which provides cars for Princess Anne.

The tribute, for that indeed is what it is—cases of kitchen towels and face tissues will also be presented—is according to the company in recognition of the "spirited campaign by Bill Keys which was largely instrumental in the government grant to the British paper industry for the construction of raw material treatment plants to reduce dependence on imports."

The Bridgend mill is one of the largest in Britain with almost 1,000 workers. The company, which is part of British Tissue, describes its relations with the print union as "good, though never placid and sometimes healthily turbulent."

Dudley Zoo, threatened with closure by rising costs and inadequate attendances, looks increasingly likely to survive. An appeal for £75,000 to keep animals and staff in food and wages through the winter has already raised £25,000 and a buyer has been found.

The present owner, Scotia Investments, which is the subject of a Department of Trade inquiry, was to close the zoo this week. A "leisure centre" was planned for the site.

It seemed that the efforts to keep the zoo open by supporters such as Eddie Marsland, chairman of football group Midland Industries and a former chairman of the zoo, were doomed. Marsland and associates, who own preference shares in the zoo, were not successful in buying it from Scotia.

Now the Bristol and Clifton Zoological Society, which owns Bristol's Zoo, has come forward to buy Dudley and run it with help from local business people.



"Yes, but I'm almost equally worried about what the Americans are going to do with their North Sea oil revenues."

Marsland has already contributed £5,000 towards the appeal fund to keep the animals in food and the local council has written to some 600 businessmen seeking long-term support.

Marsland, who has been looking for a solution to the zoo's future for some years, now hopes that the whole thing can be tied up next week. Scotia appears willing to sell—although the price is not known.

The extent to which Britain is still disconnected from Europe was dramatically illustrated at a conference at the Café Royal, London, yesterday, organized by the European League for Economic Cooperation.

At issue was British opposition to the European Commission's draft directives on unit pricing, alleged to involve large unnecessary extra costs for retailers, and on doorstep sell-

ing, which is thought to threaten Britain's mail order traders.

Lord Sainsbury, joint president of the family grocers and a member of the House of Lords committee reviewing European draft directives, stoutly maintained the British view. But for his pains he was brusquely told by Denmark's Karen Møller, of the commission's consumer service, that Britain always raised its objections too late.

"I only heard about the Lords report the day before yesterday," she maintained, "and the issue has been debated for the last two years. I had no written documentation from Britain at all."

Lord Sainsbury looked suitably dumbfounded, but more light on the communications gap between London and Brussels was shed a minute later by Dagmar Gross, of the British Consumers' Association. She observed caustically: "I evi-

## BLACK DIAMONDS PENSIONS LIMITED

(A company wholly owned by the National Coal Board Pension Funds)

## The Offer for the Ordinary Shares of THE BRITISH INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED

closes at

3p.m. on Monday, 12th December, 1977.

Ordinary Shareholders who have not yet accepted and who wish to do so are therefore urged to accept without delay.

This statement has been issued by S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. on behalf of Black Diamonds Pension Limited. The Board of Black Diamonds Pension Limited has taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate and all the Directors jointly and severally accept responsibility accordingly.



## International Timber Corporation

### Interim Report for half year to 30th September 1977

In view of the sale of the majority of our Belgian interests, all figures shown exclude that investment. In fact a modest profit was achieved in Belgium in the period under review.

Turnover is little changed from the previous year. This arises from reduced volume due to the much lower level of activity in the markets we serve, particularly the construction industry, compensated by higher prices for our products largely because of the lower value of sterling. Although there are signs that activity should improve in the building industry it is not expected that this will be very apparent in our second half year, which includes the winter months. Your Company is in excellent shape to benefit when the anticipated improvement in building occurs.

Your Board has decided to pay an interim dividend of 2.75p per Ordinary Stock Unit (1977 2.5p). The interim dividend will be paid on April 7th 1978 to stockholders on the register on March 3rd 1978.

| Group Results  | Unaudited for the half year to 30.9.77 | Audited for the year to 30.9.77 |
|--|--|---------------------------------|
| External Sales   | 30,977                                 | 30,976                          |
| Profit for the Period                                    | 4,480                                  | 6,133                           |
| Interest - including Loan Stock £210,000 (1976-£227,000) | 1,419                                  | 1,537                           |
| Profit before Taxation                                   | 3,061                                  | 3,806                           |
| Group Profit Attributable to Stockholders after Taxation | 1,534                                  | 1,780                           |
| Interim Dividend per Ordinary Stock Unit                 | 2.75p                                  | 2.5p                            |
| Earnings per Ordinary Stock Unit:                        |  |                                 |
| Basic  | 10.8p                                  | 13.9p                           |
| Fully Diluted  | 8.7p                                   | 10.0p                           |

## Braham Millar

### INTERIM REPORT AT 30 SEPTEMBER 1977 (Unaudited)

|           | Half year ended 30.9.77 | Half year ended 30.9.76 | Full year ended 31.3.77 |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Turnover: |                         |                         |                         |
| Home      | 1.47                    | 1.32                    | 3.01                    |
| Export    | 3.04                    | 2.88                    | 5.43                    |
|           | 4.51                    | 4.00                    | 8.44                    |

|                             | £000   | £000 | £000  |
|-----------------------------|--------|------|-------|
| Profit:                     |        |      |       |
| Before Taxation             | 511    | 421  | 972   |
| After Taxation              | 245    | 202  | 848   |
| Dividend per 10p share 0.5p | 0.525p |      | 1.45p |

**PROSPECTS.** Demand remains strong but with profit margins coming under increasing pressure, profits for the second half year may well not exceed the very satisfactory earnings in the first half, despite an increase in turnover.

Braham Millar Group Limited  
Capital goods for industry

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

### Stock markets

## Mark up on miners but prices dip

The market breathed a sigh of relief at the miners' decision to observe the 12-month rule on pay but lack of follow through meant that prices fell back from their marked up levels.

Second thoughts on the move led many to the conclusion that it was only putting off the inevitable and this, coupled with talk of further pay moves by the engineers, kept potential buyers firmly in the back-ground.

The FT Index, 3.9 down at midday, was 2.3 ahead two hours later after the mark-up. But the lack of support there after left prices to drift and by the close the index was 0.1 off at 485.2. Once again the total of bargains marked fell below 4,000 with equities demonstrating their current ability to hold firm on very little business.

This is a source of satisfaction for some, but of disquiet for others who feel that some really bad news, especially on the industrial front, could bring a sharp reaction and that will be taken today as the account closes.

In the gilt-edged market a firmer pound and the hope that better news on the money supply may lead to a settlement in interest rates helped prices to stay close to their overnight levels.

"Shorts" eased one-eighth while longer dates slightly gained one quarter only to ease back unchanged or an eighth lower.

Bowater Corporation may have to wait another year to join the City's top up club. Currency fluctuations, which added around £8m to last year's surplus, will take the edge off 1977 profits, and with only three weeks of the current accounting period still to run the group is unlikely to meet analysts' expectations of £100m this time round. The shares are 181p.

Among the industrial leaders Beecham gained 4p to 652p and Glaxo, where there is reported to have been stock in the market this week, closed 2p to the good at 532p as the selling came to an end. The group's annual meeting is next week.

In electricals a "sell" recommendation on the charts

will be recruited from outside the group "at the earliest possible date", meanwhile Mr Michael Stedman will act as chief executive.

Profits at this bricks and concrete group have been declining since reaching a record £816,000 in 1972-73. The board gave a warning in June that any recovery before April would be modest, but the pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 have crashed from £225,000 to £92,000. After all deductions there is a loss at the attributable level of £51,000 compared with a profit of £189,000. The board warns that it is not possible to forecast results for the full year with any certainty. Talking the hint the market dropped 7p of the shares at 30p.

Since establishing its subsidiary in Dubai in March, pre-tax losses have reached £43,000 and the group's total commitment there is about £252,000. The board is subject to approval of the Department of Energy, the stake would be reduced from 20 per cent to 10 per cent under a potential agreement with a group of companies led by Zapata International.

lowered Thorn 8p to 368p and EMI were still unable to shake off the influence of this week's gloomy statement closing 2p off at 180p, after 177p. GEC, in contrast, continued to feel the benefit of this week's figures, and gained another 2p to 263p.

There were no surprises in the figures from Great Universal Stores with the shares rising 2p to 314p. In foods the statement from J Lyons was less bad than expected, as predicted here, and the shares moved ahead 4p to 104p. Figures earlier in the week continued to help Rowntree Macintosh, up 10p to 420p, and another well supported was Sainsbury where the gain was 5p to 155p. But the best rise was from Northern Foods which, in a belated response to earlier figures, added 8p to 111p with dealers commenting that in the past the shares have often been restricted by the possibility of further acquisitions.

In the financial sector the clearing banks went into retreat with losses of 7p from Lloyds at 278p, National Westminster at 278p and Barclays at 328p.

Midland, however, lost even more ground, closing eight points down to 388p.

After a mention here on the possibility of minority terms Carlton Industries gained 5p to 157p but news that the projected talks with an undisclosed suit had been discontinued left Spink & Son 16p off at 300p at the end of the day.

Hot issues attracted renewed speculative support notably Savoy 'A', which rose 7p to 72p, and Rowton Hotels which closed 13p ahead at 156p. For the last named forthcoming figures are said to be encouraging.

Others to meet with speculative demand included Associated Book, up 9p to 164p, Leigh Interest 5p to 158p, Norton & Wright 2p to 168p and Alfred Freedy where the gain was 7p to 68p.

In the oil sector BP dipped 12p to 844p on the continued weakness of Wall Street. Two shares mentioned here of late showed some strength with George Oliver gaining 5p to 42p this week and Tays & Company up 5p to 34p over a

similar period.

A long list of company results generally produced adverse reaction.

Serck slipped 1p to 101p around where the shares have rested for some time. The figures for the year to last September should be good enough, emerging at say £9.2m against the "not less than £9.2m forecast when the group fought off Associated Engineering. But yesterday's news from Pegler Hattersley was poor, and its tough going in values could be shared by Serck this year.

Equity turnover on December 7 was £87.55m (13,611 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were BP, GEC, Grand Metropolitan, ICI, Royal BAF, BMT, Commercial Union, P & O, DfD, Barclays, Distillers, Beecham, Tube Investments, Commercial Union, Northern Foods, Thorne, Pegler Hattersley, NIS News, Spink & Sons and Assam Frontier.

### Latest results

| Company            | Sales        | Profit      | Earnings    | Div        | Pay  | Year's    |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------|-----------|
| Int of Fin         | 43.1(42.2)   | 5.0(5.17)   | 5.0(5.17)   | 2.77(2.27) | 21/3 | (5.42)    |
| Baker Perkins (I)  | 40.4(36.5)   | 3.5(3.3)    | 7.4(6.6)    | 1.9(1.55)  | 10/2 | (3.85)    |
| Bambers (I)        | 19.3(18.8)   | 0.73(0.92)  | —           | 0.81(0.73) | 23/1 | (2.89)    |
| Bardon H&I (I)     | 6.1(10.4)    | 0.4(0.1)    | —           | 3.3(—)     | 10/1 | (—)       |
| Wickham & Co (I)   | 34.2(32.1)   | 0.0(0.12)   | —           | —          | —    | (1.37)    |
| Blakey's (I)       | 1.7(1.3)     | 0.16(0.12)  | —           | —          | —    | (1.9)     |
| Brumham Millar (I) | 1.47(1.32)   | 0.51(0.42)  | —           | 0.6(0.52)  | 17/2 | (2.4)     |
| Burk Rendell (I)   | 0.2(0.1)     | 0.1(0.1)    | —           | 1.1(1.1)   | 10/2 | (2.61)    |
| Castings (I)       | 7.24(6.03)   | 0.57(0.44)  | 2.36(2.03)  | 0.5(0.17)  | 10/2 | (1.6)     |
| Castings (I)       | 2.1(1.7)     | 0.2(0.17)   | —           | 0.42(0.37) | 19/1 | (1.6)     |
| Cawdow Ltd (I)     | 5.8(5.5)     | 0.1(0.27)   | —           | —          | —    | (4.1)     |
| Churchill East (I) | 4.7(3.8)     | 0.12(0.125) | 2.72(2.17)  | 1.7(1.5)   | 23/1 | (2.6)     |
| Glaxo (I)          | 34.2(31.1)   | 0.4(0.32)   | —           | 1.6(1.4)   | 2/2  | (4.1)     |
| Glenmurray (F)     | —            | 1.05(0.57)  | —           | 1.0(0.9)   | 17/1 | (2.6)     |
| GLS (I)            | 50.6(50.2)   | 0.17(0.14)  | 1.77(1.45)  | 1.0(0.85)  | 2/2  | 1.7(1.45) |
| Int Timber (I)     | 66.2(65.1)   | 0.21(0.1)   | 10.2(8.9)   | 3.1(2.8)   | 7/4  | (6.2)     |
| James Latham (I)   | 13.3(13.4)   | 0.5(0.8)    | —           | 2.65(3.0)  | 20/1 | (6.6)     |
| John J. Lees (I)   | 0.7(0.56)    | 0.05(0.06)  | —           | —          | 16/1 | (1.9)     |
| James Latham (F&I) | 19.1(19.1)   | 0.63(0.7)   | 3.19(3.74)  | 0.75(0.67) | 18/2 | 1.3(1.17) |
| Lombard North      | —            | 11.7(8.4)   | —           | —          | —    | (1.25)    |
| Lyn Merch Sec (I)  | 44.7(36.7)   | 0.4(0.25)   | 3.55(2.4)   | 0.5(0.37)  | 27/1 | 7.6(6.8)  |
| J. Lyons (I)       | 365.0(340.0) | 6.5(4.6)    | 8.7(7.2)    | 2.06(2.03) | 30/1 | (1.60)    |
| Phillips Lps & (I) | —            | 5.4(7.5)    | —           | 0.6(0.60)  | —    | (1.60)    |
| Premier Oil (I)    | 0.88(0.85)   | 0.30(0.30)  | 3.27(3.90)  | 0.0(0.22)  | —    | 1.0(0.92) |
| Richards (F)       | 10.2(9.5)    | 0.76(0.93)  | —           | 27.56(206) | —    | (806)     |
| Schwartz           | —            | 0.13(0.08)  | 19.38(5.55) | 0.35(0.25) | 3/4  | (1.1)     |
| Sterling Ltd (I)   | 2.3(1.8)     | 0.72(0.38)  | 1.43(0.86)  | 2.00(0.81) | 6/4  | (2.6)     |
| Trafford Cops (I)  | 1.6(1.7)     | 0.08(0.08)  | 2.2(2.10)   | 0.5(1.0)   | —    | (—)       |
| Westcoast          | —            | 0.09(0.22)  | 1.2(1.4)    | —          | —    | (—)       |

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. A Forecast. b Florins. c for 16 months. d Loss. e Cents.

### Shake-up at Westbrick

By Tony May  
Profits have slumped, the interim dividend is halved and the chairman, Mr Patrick Stedman, and four other directors have resigned at Westbrick Products. Mr Stedman and Mr D. R. Saunders, the managing director, will no longer hold any executive post in the company, but three other directors will continue in executive capacities. Two non-executive directors were appointed on October 1 and one, Mr J. W. Sutherland is now the non-executive chairman.

A new managing director

will be recruited from outside the group "at the earliest possible date", meanwhile Mr Michael Stedman will act as chief executive.

Profits at this bricks and concrete group have been declining since reaching a record £816,000 in 1972-73. The board gave a warning in June that any recovery before April would be modest, but the pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 have crashed from £225,000 to £92,000. After all deductions there is a loss at the attributable level of £51,000 compared with a profit of £189,000. The board warns that it is not possible to forecast results for the full year with any certainty. Talking the hint the market dropped 7p of the shares at 30p.

Since establishing its subsidiary in Dubai in March, pre-tax losses have reached £43,000 and the group's total commitment there is about £252,000. The board is subject to approval of the Department of Energy, the stake would be reduced from 20 per cent to 10 per cent under a potential agreement with a group of companies led by Zapata International.

### Premier to farm out N Sea stake

By Desmond Quigley

Premier Consolidated Oilfields, which took over its associate Ball Collis earlier in the year, is completing arrangements to farm out part of its interest in Block 3/23 in the North Sea.

The company announced yesterday along with its interest in Block 3/23 is subject to approval of the Department of Energy, the stake would be reduced from 20 per cent to 10 per cent under a potential agreement with a group of companies led by Zapata International.

In return the companies taking up the 10 per cent stake will finance the drilling of a new exploratory well on the block. Unconformable qualities of oil have already been found on the block and the south-east corner of the block but the main structure has yet to be drilled.

In the six months to end September the group made a pre-tax profit of £301,000 on a turnover of £985,000. However, tax, which was almost entirely applicable to operations in Trinidad, was at the rate of 63 per cent.

Last year Premier made an interim pre-tax profit of £307,000 on a turnover of £862,000, although the figures are not directly comparable because Ball & Collins is included for 51 months this year. In the year to the end of last December, Ball & Collins made a pre-tax loss after an exceptional credit of £50,000.

Premier reports that since the end of March its cash balances have increased substantially. During the first half of the year the group says it has drilled three successful wells in the Reggane gas field in Italy and six oil producing wells on its properties in the Midway Sunset Oilfield, California.

**B & LINE LINE**  
This Irish government owned shipping and transport group expects pre-tax profits to rise from £24,000 to £74,000 this year.

## Interim boost from London Merchant but shares ease

By Alison Mitchell

Reduced borrowings and a better showing on the industrial side boosted profits at Lord Rayne's property, investment and industrial holding group London Merchant Securities. At the pre-tax level they rose 54 per cent from £2.6m to £4m in the six months to September 30 last on turnover up by over a fifth to £44.7m. This compares with £36.8m last time.

Bank loans are down by several million pounds according to the chairman and this, coupled to lower interest rates, leaves financial charges at £2.9m against a previous £3.4m.

The group did benefit from improved rental income though this rise is likely to be gradual. As rents increase and more property is let this side will step up its contribution. It will not be reflected too much in the second half, according to the chairman, but it will certainly be better next year.

On the industrial side, subsidiary Carlton Industries showed the biggest improvement. The lead acid batteries and industrial fasteners company has made most of the running and this is likely to continue into the second half.

Order books are currently substantially higher than at the beginning of the year and Lord Rayne reports that there is some depth to them.

In line with the group's accounting policy, no provision has been made for tax which is unlikely to become payable within the next five years. As such the tax charge, such only £386,000 from profits, an in-

crease of 5492,000 on last time. Earnings a share improved from 2.40p to 3.55p in the period.

The directors are confident that results for the full year will show that the improved profits trend has been maintained. This could see LMS making a total of around £7.5m on a share price of 75p, down 0.5p yesterday, and assuming a maximum dividend this gives a prospective yield of around 2.7 per cent and a p/e ratio of 7.1.

There has been stock market speculation over a number of months that LMS will bid for the 29 per cent of Carlton Industries and 40 per cent of fellow subsidiary Inver Gordon Distillers, not already owned.

been rationalizing product lines to concentrate on its strengths. The United Kingdom market remains fairly static and Mr Joyce reports that the group has been increasingly relying on exports and overseas manufacture.

In the six months, this latter side could do little more than move the time with sales of £14.5m but, with the American dispute behind it, is likely to show an improvement at the end of the year. Trading in both America and Australia is buoyant though the current weakness of the dollar against the pound could prove to be a depressing brake.

Mr I. Gilbert, chairman, tells shareholders in the interim statement that the value of orders placed by United Kingdom customers has fallen but this has been balanced by a continuing high level of new business in America. And he is confident of a further advance in sales and profits in the second half. In the year to March 31 last the group turned in £7.9m pre-tax.

### COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT

## LONDON TIN/NEW TRADEWINDS GROUP

Arising from the re-organisation of the New Tradewinds Group, the U.K. offices of the undermentioned companies will be transferred to 40 Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1P 1AJ, with effect from 1st January, 1978. Under this reconstruction the existing office at 55/61 Moorgate, London, EC2R 6BH, will close on 31st December, 1977. On the same date Mr D. R. Mitchell and Mr W. T. Dunne will be retiring or resigning from the Boards of the following companies:—

Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria (Holdings) Limited, Aokam Tin Berhad, Kamunting Tin Dredging Limited, Malaysian Tin Dredging Limited, Kramat Pulai, Limited, London Tin Corporation Limited, Southern Kinta Consolidated, Limited, Southern Malaysian Tin Dredging Limited, The Anglo-Oriental and General Investment Trust Limited, Tongkah Harbour Tin Dredging Berhad.

Also with effect from 1st January, 1978, the U.K. offices of the undermentioned companies will be transferred to 40 Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1P 1AJ:—

Berjuntan Tin Dredging Berhad, Kamunting Tin Dredging Berhad, Kamunting Tin Dredging (M) Berhad, Kramat Tin Dredging Berhad, Kuala Lumpur Tin Fields Berhad, Lower Perak Tin Dredging Berhad, Malaysian Tin Dredging (M) Berhad, Southern Kinta Consolidated (M) Berhad, Southern Malaysian Tin Dredging (M) Berhad.

### CORRECTION NOTICE

**Ford**  
BEARER DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS  
Following the DIVIDEND DECLARATION by the Company on 13 October 1977, NOTICE is now given that the following DISTRIBUTION will become payable to Authorized Depositors on or after 13 December 1977 against presentation of the Depositary (as below) of Claim Forms (obtainable from the Depositary) listing Bearer Depositary Receipts.

Gross Distribution per Unit 4.00 cents  
Less 15% US Withholding Tax 0.60 cents  
3.40 cents per unit  
Converted at \$1.84 = £0.018478 per unit

DEPOSITARY  
National Westminster Bank Limited  
STOCK OFFICE SERVICES  
PO Box 297, Drapers Gardens  
12 Throgmorton Avenue  
London EC2P 2ES  
7 December 1977

## Vickers da Costa chairman criticizes SE 'caution'

On the face of it, a partial profits recovery from an annual level of £12,000 to £700,000 in the year to end-August last should be the cause of some satisfaction at Vickers da Costa. But the chairman's statement contains an attack against the Stock Exchange and the fiscal system as it affects the securities industry.

"The Stock Exchange is not, of course, perfect", Mr Ralph Vickers asserts. "In particular it has over the years damaged the long term interests of investors by excessive caution, limiting instead of encouraging competitive instincts and thereby allowing competition from non-members to become established in London."

But the thrust of Mr Vickers' attack is concentrated on "two of the most stupid taxes ever inflicted on the public"—stamp transfer duty and the premium surrender.

"The transfer stamp certainly loses more revenue to the Government than it produces", he claims, while the maintenance of the dollar premium over the past 12 years has contributed to the decline of the international market in London."

These taxes, coupled with the "prohibitive restrictions on stock borrowing" have also hurt the firm's arbitrage operations to the extent that its revenue from international

business has more than halved over the past four years to an annual level of about £700,000. Despite the profit upturn and his hope that "the year as a whole may produce more satisfactory results than we have experienced recently the payroll has been cut by 70 to 227 United Kingdom employees. The more bullish prospects however, are persuading the board to consider a maiden dividend which may be recommended when the next interim figures are available."

The recent cash retention policy has enabled Vickers to build net asset backing from £1.53 to £2.39 over the past 12 years, but a conversion to dollars—"one of the weaker world currencies"—shows an increase of only 36 cents to \$4.16 per share. "Hardly an impressive result expressed in these terms and the return of only 10 per cent of capital played towards Vickers' long term aim of building in London a firm capable of competing in the world securities industry with the major houses from the United States and Japan."

**OLD SWAN HOTEL**  
Sales and profit well ahead. Increased bookings from overseas tour operators and Autumn conference season satisfactory. Filming of sequences of Warner Bros production "Agatha" has already contributed to revenue.

## US growth helps Barclays Int

Even excluding the benefits from exchange rate movements, the underlying growth at Barclays Bank International continues to be impressive. Pre-tax profits in the year to end-September rose almost a quarter to £113.3m.

That was despite the reduction in BBI's holding in Nigeria to 40 per cent following the Government's acquisition of a 17 per cent stake which has lowered the contribution to profits from £15.9m to £11.8m.

BBI's results have been obtained despite the slowdown in world trade and the international activities have gained impetus especially in the United States as well as increasing demand for export finance. In South Africa, however, results have been affected by the provisions against property lending introduced with the strengthening of the impact has been reduced.

Meanwhile resignation of exchange rates outside the normal trading activities of

### Briefly

£10.5m has been deducted from reserves. With profits from the domestic banking operations of the Barclays group under pressure, the international operations are now of growing importance.

**COMME HOLDINGS**  
Annual meeting told by chairman, Mr Larry Stedman that there was still no reliable indication of general improvement in retail furniture. Profit for half year to end-January will be down on year earlier.

**LEISURE AND GENERAL**  
L & G has said that shareholders will get reasoned rejection to Labroff offer soon.

**DALGETY**  
Group has bought for £2.2m cash Kelley Farquhar, a private company processing frozen vegetables. HQ Tacoma, Washington. In year to April, last pre-tax profit £675,000.

**KENSINGTON & CHELSEA**  
Applications for less than £50,000 of 113 per cent red stock 1985-87 receive no allotment. Applicants for £50,000 stock and above get around 0.50 per cent of amount applied for. Application for floating rate stock allotted in full.

**LEVERS OPTICAL**  
Company has completed its security arrangements, its bankers have formally renewed its overdraft facilities on similar terms to those which the company previously enjoyed.

**LAWRENCE-ECONA**  
On December 6 Walter Lawrence sold stake of 765,000 ordinary in Econa for \$479,824 net. Econa board cooperated with placing. Proceeds will finance recent Langham & Owen acquisition.

**LANGHOVAAL GROUP**  
Consolidated Murchison, major antimony producer, slashed final dividend from 90c to 10c, while Hartheesterga Gold Mining's dividend at 75c was not up to expectations. Middle Wits 10c (10c), Assent Transvaal 6c (5c), Zandvoort 12c (10c), Anglo-Trans 25 (25c).

INDUSTRIAL VALVES • DOMESTIC PLUMBING FITTINGS • RADIATOR VALVES • ACRYLIC SANITARY WARE  
INDUSTRIAL RUBBER COMPONENTS • FABRICATIONS AND DESALINATION EQUIPMENT

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## FINANCIAL NEWS

## ATV looking to £13m full-time but market sees £14m-plus

By Michael Prest

ATV just over £5m. ATV's pre-tax profits in September 25 are £156,000 less than for the same period last year, but a little above the market's expectations. The shortfall is attributed by the company to "exceptional television programme costs", which Mr Jack Gill, deputy chairman, explains as the *Jesus of Nazareth* film. These costs will not recur, and the company is confident of pre-tax profits for the whole year of "not less than" £13m. Mr Gill says ATV's cash position is strong in the wake of last October's £9m rights issue.

ATV does not offer a breakdown of its advertising profit figures, but some analysts feel that while films may be the moment have caused a profits dip, much better results will have been shown by tapes and records. The company is expected to contribute to property and music publishing. He says that two major feature films have been completed, and they are expected to contribute to profits in the next financial



Lord Grade, chairman of ATV.

year. Analysts, point out, however, that film profits can prove elusive. Nevertheless, ATV's full-year results could comfortably exceed its own forecasts. Market sources are suggesting £14m. The higher figure is based on

rising expenditure next year, and the traditionally better winter season television profits. The market appears confident that the profits trend is firmly up.

Two other factors, apart from the uncertainty of film sales, which could upset the trend, are government legislation and allocation of the fourth channel franchise and speculation that ATV's midland franchise could be split in two. In its statement in the accounts for the last financial year, Lord Grade, ATV's chairman, said he was "disappointed" that the Annual Committee into the fourth channel's future had not allocated this to the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

But there are distant fears for shareholders. Although the "A" shares closed 1p down at 89p, the yield remains high at 9.9 per cent. Despite the rights issue, the interim dividend is 2.75p, compared with 2.75p. The board expects to recommend total net dividends for the whole year of £5.49p, which in gross terms is 20 per cent more than last year.

## Setback for Pegler but payout goes up

By Tony May

The aim of Pegler-Hatterley was to hold its ground over the current year, but a combination of tough trading conditions and labour unrest militated against this.

Sales for the six months to September 30 rose 13 per cent to £41.4m, thanks to a big rise in exports, but pre-tax profits dropped 25 per cent to £5.4m. Margins at this level are down from 13.9 per cent to 13 per cent. Scrapping our metal snack can production, profits are down only 11 per cent to £5.7m.

Looking ahead, Mr James Harrison, chairman, says that the results for the second half were "not too bad" and that the company will be able to repeat last year's record profit of £18.1m—a jump of 26 per cent.

On a brighter note, he added that the interim dividend is raised to 4.35p to 4.77p gross, and Mr Harrison plans to raise the total for the year from 10.58p to 11.63p. He points out that this is a maximum payment, and that the cover will remain high. The market, he notes, like the trading outlook however, and the shares dropped 10p to 176p.

Commenting on the past half-year Mr Harrison said that profits of the associated companies, which mainly arise overseas, increased, and some of the smaller companies improved their results. It was a disappointing half, however, because of the group's two main operating divisions—particularly the engineering and vehicle division where severe competition in the steel valve field "consistently reduced margins". Also, production in both main divisions was affected by labour troubles.

Mr Harrison notes that this was a new experience for the group and that it was largely attributed to the dissatisfaction of skilled employees at the erosion of their differentials, compared with the determination of others that there should be no change in which they did not participate.

## GE of America again looks to higher return

General Electric Company of America expects its 1977 earnings to be in the range of \$4.70 to \$4.80 per share. This is up from \$4.12 in 1976, Mr Reginald Jones, chairman, said in New York.

This confirmed a projection at a shareholders' meeting in October when he said that the estimate was in line with projections by securities analysts.

Mr Jones, commenting on the Hitachi joint venture, said Hitachi will pay its share in cash. But, he refused to disclose the amount. He added that Hitachi will bring in staff and technology for their venture.

GE's television operations will be profitable this year and in 1978, Mr Jones estimated that 9.5 million colour televisions will be sold in the United States next year, slightly above the projected 9 million for this year.

He said that GE was planning no major acquisitions at this time because "We would be in a little trouble with the Justice Department just right now after the Utah International purchase". He added that GE had no major plans for a stock repurchase or debt reduction programme.

The high foreign borrowing of about \$400m (about £222m) would be kept at that level as a hedge against currency movement, Mr Jones said.—Reuters.

## Hambro Group sells

Australian Corporation of Australia (AAC) and the Hambro Group said that Hambro Australia and other members of the Hambro Group had sold their 55.6 per cent shareholdings in AAC to 30 shareholders in Union Corporation (Australia), which owned 10 per cent of AAC's six million 20 cent per share capital, said its stake at 30 cents a share. The shares were purchased as follows: Falkner Holdings Ltd 1.8 million, Allcott 1.8 million and the AAC staff incentive scheme 341,000.

## Nomura sees decline

Nomura Research Institute of Japan predicts after-tax profit for 1978 will be 10 per cent lower than for 1977. The institute has shown an average decline of 2.9 per cent in the six months to March 31 and another fall of 10.7 per cent in the following six months. This is because of slower production in Japan and a slowdown in exports under the pressure of the recent appreciation of the yen, it said.

The prediction was made on the assumption that Japan's real economic growth rate in fiscal 1978, starting in April, will be between 4.5 and 5 per cent, compared with between 5.5 and 6 per cent estimated for the current fiscal year.

## Bayerische Bank

Bayerische Vereinsbank has announced in Munich that it is raising capital to DM315m (about £75m) from DM266m through a one-for-ten offer to

## International

shareholders at DM180 marks per DM50 nominal share.

At the end of October, the parent bank's balance sheet totalled DM35,500m against DM32,700m at the end of 1976. The group balance sheet total increased to DM61,000m from DM56,700m last year, the bank paid a DM10 dividend on ordinary shares and DM11.50 on the preference.

## Dow to buy shares

The Dow Chemical Company of America says it will purchase on the open market 1.5 million shares of its common stock before December 31 next year. It says it is purchasing the stock to cover the distribution of shares when an employee stock purchase plan is completed. The purchase of an additional 1.5 million shares which has been completed. It currently has about 183 million shares outstanding.

## Meyer doubtful

Meyer Emporium of Melbourne says it will be very difficult to maintain profit in the first half of the current year at last year's levels. The chairman, Mr K. Steel said that so far this year sales are above the year earlier level, but lower than planned.

The company, he said, was aiming to double both profit and sales from last year's level by 1982 to A\$50m (about £56.2m) and A\$2,000m respectively, with investments of nearly A\$250m over the period. In the year ended July 31, the company had consolidated net profit of A\$44.8m.

## Belgian metals merger

Belgian metals company, La Métallurgie SA, says it will merge its commercial, administrative and production activities with those of Sicomat SA by January 30. These will then be concentrated on Metallo's plant at Beers, near Antwerp. Metallo, which has an annual turnover of around 2,000m Belgian francs (about £30.6m), processing iron ore, metal waste and copper. Sicomat previously dealt mainly as Metallo's sales agent.

## Metall improves

Metallgesellschaft AG, the West German heavy engineering group, says that its 1976-77 provisional domestic group earnings rose slightly over the previous year when consolidated group net profit was DM18.29m (about £4.3m). This improvement is influenced by a lower legal requirement on pension provisions, it says. Finance Director Herr Jakob Greven said the company would try not to use Germany's corporation tax reform as justification for lowering the dividend and it will further try to raise open reserves.

## Pancontin't see \$240m from uranium

By Desmond Quigley

Pancontinental Mining has claimed that its Jabluka uranium project in the Northern Territory could generate A\$240m a year in export revenue from the end of 1981, rising to \$270m a year from the middle of the next decade, Reuters reports.

The claim is made in a draft environmental impact statement on the project which has been filed by Pancontinental in accordance with Government instructions.

Pancontinental has always been optimistic as to when it could get into production and the reaction in London to the development sequence implied in the statement with work beginning early next year was that the company was yet again being somewhat optimistic.

Against this, however, there is a Government moratorium on uranium development and that the whole issue is highly sensitive in Australia (it is a major issue in Saturday's general election). Pancontinental still has a long way to go before it can start on the project even when, and if, it receives Government consent.

Over its estimated 30 year operating life, Pancontinental export revenue could total about \$16,000m, using the current spot price for uranium of A\$36 a pound, while gold would probably add a further \$7m to \$10m for at least four years, the company said.

Estimated capital expenditure has been put at a total of \$72m with \$186m in the first four years of development and a further \$86m being needed in the following three years for expansion.

## Rental market growth gives lift to Haslemere

By Ray Maughan

The growing strength of the prime office rental market coupled with a few more lettings and reversions helped to boost Haslemere Estates' net revenue by 23 per cent to £4,02m in the six months ended September 30 last. The annual total is estimated to rise by about 16 per cent to over £5.2m although the board, headed by Mr Frederick Cleary, stresses that this will probably turn out to be a conservative forecast.

Interest charged climbed slightly to £2.52m while outgoing were boosted from £4,000 to £275,000 as a result of ground rents on leaseback arrangements and some empty rates. Trading profits rose from £203,000 to £360,000—likely to reach about £500,000 in the full year—and, after management expenses, pre-tax profits were very much in line with outside

predictions with a 64 per cent rise to £1.27m. In comparison with current management policy there were no sales of investment properties.

The last balance sheet showed that 85 per cent of the portfolio comprised offices and 57 per cent was located in the West and City of London which, if external calculations are correct, suggests that existing net rental income will rise by around 15 per cent throughout 1978. Haslemere, however, is taking a more active interest in the industrial market, about 5 per cent of the portfolio last March, where yields are now in the 6 to 8 per cent range. The group has just finished the 280,000 sq ft warehouse near London Airport and the letting of several units has already begun.

The interim dividend is raised from 0.95p per share to 1p.

## Spink still in takeover talks

By Ashley Druker

London-based coin and fine art dealers Spink & Sons has broken off talks with the still unidentified original suitor, widely thought to be Stanley Gibbons. However one of the bigger industrial names has also been mooted.

Spink, which has been under takeover rumour since the initial approach in late September, revealed yesterday that discussions were proceeding with a "number of interested parties".

The firm is still playing cool, however, and once again no clues are being revealed on the identity of the potential bidders.

Just under 50 per cent of the voting rights of company are held by family trusts and other family shareholders. Together they will have the final word on any takeover move. Spink also said yesterday that the directors were also paying "particular attention to the interests of the staff".

His shares early on drifted 36p to about 288p on the stock market following the intimation that the talks with the first potential bidder had been called off.

Later, however, hopes that one of the other interested parties will submit firm proposals saw the level rapidly re-

## Shipping slump now hitting Stag Line

Stag Line, the group with five ships weighing 41,233 tons with another under construction for delivery next February cannot avoid the world slump in shipping.

In his statement with the accounts for the year to October 31, Mr Nicholas Robinson, chairman, not surprisingly explained: "Until the present oversupply of world tonnage is balanced by an adequate amount of world trade, the future will remain gloomy."

Two of the big carriers are fixed forward, but two more are unfixed. Shareholders are warned that it will need a big rise in freight rates for Stag to make money this year. They are however offered a dividend of a dividend from profits retained in earlier years.

## Business appointments

## Top changes at Standard Chartered Merchant Bank

Mr M. D. McWilliam, deputy chairman of Standard Chartered Merchant Bank, has been appointed managing director, from January 1. He will continue as a senior general manager of Standard Chartered Bank. Mr R. A. Bailey, managing director of Wallace Brothers Bank, has been made deputy managing director of Standard Chartered Merchant Bank and will continue as managing director of Wallace Brothers Bank.

Mr D. P. Pinks, general manager of Standard Chartered Bank, becomes a senior general manager. Mr A. E. Ely, a deputy chairman of Wallace Brothers Bank, becomes a general manager of Standard Chartered Bank and remains on the Board of Wallace Brothers Bank.

Mr James Evans will join the main board of the Thomson Organisation of January 1, with special responsibility for group policies on human resources. He will remain on the executive board and as a director of other Thomson companies, including Thomson North Sea and Times Newspapers.

Mr C. Tibbory is to become chairman of Whitebread on January 1, taking over from Mr A. Bennett, who will remain on the board and continue as chairman of Whitebread Investment. Mr G. R. Seymour becomes deputy chairman, Mr Farrington managing director (international) and Mr A. J. J. Stoddart-Gooding managing director (UK).

Mr Alex Page, chairman of Metal Box, has joined the board of Elctro. Mr D. A. Holland has become managing director of Balfour

## Lombard North Central boosted by interest rate

The fall in interest rates since November last year brought a boom period for Britain's best known car financier, Lombard North Central. So much so that if interest rates remain at or near their present levels, a further increase in profitability over the next 12 months is on the cards.

Lombard, a subsidiary of National Westminster Bank, reports a leap in pre-tax profits of 38 per cent to £11m for the year to September 30.

The new instalment credit and leasing business in the United Kingdom increased substantially. Of this a significant proportion was for industrial finance. The high quality of business resulted in an extremely low level of arrears.

## Int Timber slump knocks shares

A rather gloomy view of the immediate future comes from Mr Ronald Groves, chairman of International Timber.

On the bank of profits which slumped by over £1m at the interim stage, he warned that signs of an improvement in the building industry are not expected to boost the group's second half. However International Timber is in excellent shape to cope with the anticipated improvement in building occurs, he adds. Nonetheless the shares fell 5p on the news to close at 114p.

In the six months to September 30, group pre-tax profits slipped from £16.5m to £13.6m on sales up from £65m to £66m. These figures exclude the investment in Belgium, which was sold earlier this year. A modest profit, was fact, achieved in that country in the period.

A lower level of activity in the construction industry resulted in reduced sales at IT. This was compensated by higher prices largely because of the lower value of sterling, leaving turnover of the group little changed on last year's figure.

## Richards confident

despite reverse

The board of Richards, a maker of yarns, fire hose and industrial canvas, is not dismayed by a slip in pre-tax profits from £931,000 to £760,000 for the year to September 30. Mr A. R. Richards, the chairman, says that when allowance is made for the distortion created by the withdrawal of the Regional Employment Premium, amounting to £33,000, and the bad debt of £33,000 incurred through the collapse of the Road Worth Group, the portfolio becomes less than 5 per cent, compared with last year's record.

In a year which was the worst for man-made fibres in living memory, the "excellence of these results" becomes apparent.

Yule Catto forms new Malaysia company

Yule Catto, the rubber, oil palms and plastics group, has joined with Telok Plantations in forming a new development company in Malaysia, Yule Catto. The company has been formed to develop for housing and industrial use 493 acres of Menghobol Estate, adjacent to the town of Klang in Johore, previously part of Yule Catto's Malaysia. Yule Catto will have 40 per cent of the company and Telok, a

## Crane angry over panel criticism

Mr Angus Murray, Crane Fruehauf chairman, who had been knocked rapped by the Takeover Panel earlier this week, is asking for a meeting to discuss the issue. The Crane directors are angry about panel criticism following a statement by them that they could not stand by their profits forecast if the American group Fruehauf Corporation won control of the company. Mr Murray has asked for an early meeting with the panel chairman.

Slip by Jas Latham but outlook better

The slump in the timber trade generally has reduced margins at James Latham from 7.7 to 3.7 per cent. Pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 are 37 per cent down at £501,000, while turnover dipped 6 per cent to £13.3m. This follows a drop of 6 per cent in profits to £509,000 in the second half of last year.

Mr E. Latham, chairman, says that it is too early to predict the outcome for the full year, but he does see some signs that the market is beginning to improve.

Liner Concrete is caught by slump

The continuing depression in the construction industry has thwarted hopes that Liner Concrete Machinery could improve its results for the full year to September 3. At half time, pre-tax profits went up from £215,000 to £310,000, but the depression, the end of the Regional Employment Premium and the cost of a new factory have caused the first setback in seven years. Pre-tax profits dropped 9 per cent to £636,000.

As is often the case at this time of year in the building industry, demand is slack, which does not promise well for the half-year results.

Hunt & Moscrop hale and hearty

On the face of it, nothing would have been easier for Hunt and Moscrop (Middleton) than to look forward to a big increase in profits this year. However, Mr E. W. Hunt, chair-

## Margins squeezed at Bambergers

In line with chairman Mr Cecil Woodburn-Bamberger's warning at the annual meeting, fierce competition in the timber industry has chipped away at the profits of Bambergers.

In the half year to September 30 the group made £732,000 pre-tax, against a previous £925,000 on sales up from £18.9m to £19.3m leaving margins a full point tighter at 3.8 per cent. Trading conditions are not likely to improve in the second half, but the chairman reports that the group is maintaining market share.

Samuelson family is still eager to buy

The Samuelson Film chairman, Mr S. Samuelson, reaffirmed his family's determination to return the company to private status, but much depends on whether technical problems can be resolved. The board said last year that discussions were taking place which might lead to a cash offer from the Samuelson family for the group, and approaches to the Inland Revenue have since been made.

Commenting on a rise in pre-tax profits for the year to March 31 from £336,000 to £635,000, Mr Samuelson gave a warning that a fall is likely in the current year.

## VICTORIA CARPET

Board explains that provision for collapse of Bond Worth thought prudent; but a large part could be recovered if all goes well. Business picking up a bit, but a reasonable return on capital depends on big recovery in world demand.

PREMIER ADDED

Pre-tax profits for half to £301,000 (£288,000). Interim dividend 1.53p gross (1.515p). Turnover maintained, but less favourable trading conditions had adverse effect on profits for six months.

## Stewarts &amp; Lloyds of South Africa Limited

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

## GROUP RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1977 AND DECLARATION OF DIVIDENDS

Audited results of the Group for the year ended 30 September 1977 with comparable figures for the previous year are as follows:

|  | Year ended 30 September 1977 | Year ended 30 September 1976 |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Turnover   | 206 030                      | 207 866                      |
| Income before tax  | 13 993                       | 18 094                       |
| Taxation   | 5 162                        | 7 191                        |
| Income after taxation  | 8 741                        | 10 903                       |
| Applicable to outside shareholders   | 771                          | 732                          |
| Preference dividends   | 36                           | 36                           |
| Earnings attributable to ordinary shareholders   | 7 934                        | 10 135                       |
| Earnings per ordinary share based on "weighted average" number of shares 22 603 866 (1976: 22 510 533) | 35.1c                        | 45.0c                        |
| Ordinary shares in issue   | 22 790 533                   | 22 510 533                   |
| Dividend per share   | 17.0c                        | 17.0c                        |
| Dividend cover   | 2.05                         | 2.64                         |

As forecast in the interim report the seasonal improvement normally experienced during the second half of the financial year materialised. Group performance was affected, however, by the low level of economic activity which prevailed throughout the year.

Sales for the group totalled R206 030 000—a decrease in monetary terms of approximately 1%, compared with the previous year. Mainly due to continued lack of volume and smaller gross margins, income after tax decreased by 20% from R10.9m to R8.7m. Earnings per share declined by just under 10 cents (22%) to 35.1 cents.

The Directors have decided that the earnings for the year and the group's inherent strength warrant maintaining the ordinary dividend at the level of the previous year.

On behalf of the Board

H. C. KUIPERS Director

T. M. KING Director

## DECLARATION OF DIVIDENDS

Notice is hereby given that the undermentioned dividends have been declared: Preference dividend: A dividend of 6% per annum for the six months ending 31 December 1977 payable to the holders of six per cent first cumulative preference shares registered in the books of the company at the close of business on 15 December 1977.

Ordinary dividend No. 46: A dividend of 17 cents per share for the financial year ended 30 September 1977 payable to holders of ordinary shares registered in the books of the company at the close of business on 15 December 1977. The preference and ordinary dividends are declared in the currency of the Republic of South Africa.

In terms of the South African Income Tax Act, 1926, as amended, the dividends are subject to the deduction of non-resident shareholders' tax. The tax will be deducted at the applicable rate in the case of shareholders whose addresses in the share registers are outside the Republic of South Africa.

Registers of members, including the United Kingdom Office preference share register, will be closed from 16 December to 31 December 1977 both dates inclusive.

Dividend warrants will be posted to shareholders on or about 5 January 1978.

By order of the Board

E. A. JOHNSON

Group Secretary

Transfer Secretaries

Rand Registrars Limited

Devonshire House

Jorissen Street

Johannesburg

200

South Africa

United Kingdom Office

Charter Consolidated Limited

Charter House

Park Street

Ashford, Kent

England

## The S+L Group

## Globe Investment Trust

LIMITED

Interim Report for the six months ended 30th September, 1977

## Merger

Under a Scheme of Arrangement and Amalgamation dated 20th July, 1977, which was sanctioned by the High Court and became effective on 15th September, 1977, Globe Investment Trust Limited ("Globe") was merged with Cable Trust Limited, ("Cable"). The assets and liabilities of Cable were acquired by Globe in consideration for the issue of shares to Cable stockholders. Certain associated companies including Electra Investment Trust Limited ("the new subsidiaries") became subsidiaries of Globe as a result of the merger.

## Group Earnings

The unaudited consolidated revenue and earnings of Globe, Cable and the new subsidiaries for the six months ended 30th September, 1977 were:

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Gross group revenue                                  | £9,759,000 |
| Group earnings before taxation                       | £8,437,000 |
| Taxation   | 3,418,000  |
| Group earnings after taxation                        | 5,019,000  |
| Minority interests                                   | 389,000    |
| Earnings attributable to Globe Ordinary Stockholders | £4,630,000 |

## Interim dividends in respect of current financial period

On 9th September, 1977 Globe paid an interim dividend of 2.6p per stock unit (£2,453,069 of which Cable received £501,561) and on the same date Cable paid a special interim dividend of 3.64p per stock unit (£2,879,357 of which Globe received £950,184).

## Final dividend in respect of current financial period

The Directors of Globe, as stated in the Scheme document, are confident that they will be in a position to recommend the payment in July, 1978 of a final dividend of at least 1.5p per unit on the increased ordinary share capital of Globe in respect of the year ending 31st March, 1978.

## Investments and Net Assets

The following unaudited figures as at 30th September, 1977 relate to the merged Globe Group. Investments at middle market price or valuation

Net assets attributable to Globe Ordinary Stockholders

The investment valuations include 100 per cent. of the investment currency premium where applicable. At 30th September, 1977 this amounted to £12,106,000 of which 25% would have been surrendered to the Bank of England if certain investments had been sold on that date (31st March, 1977: £17,828,000).

Net Consolidated Assets per Stock Unit







Stock Exchange Prices

**Bargains marked below 4000**

COUNT DAYS : Dealings Began, Nov 28. Dealings End, Today. \$ Conango Day, Dec 12. Settlement Day, Dec 20

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

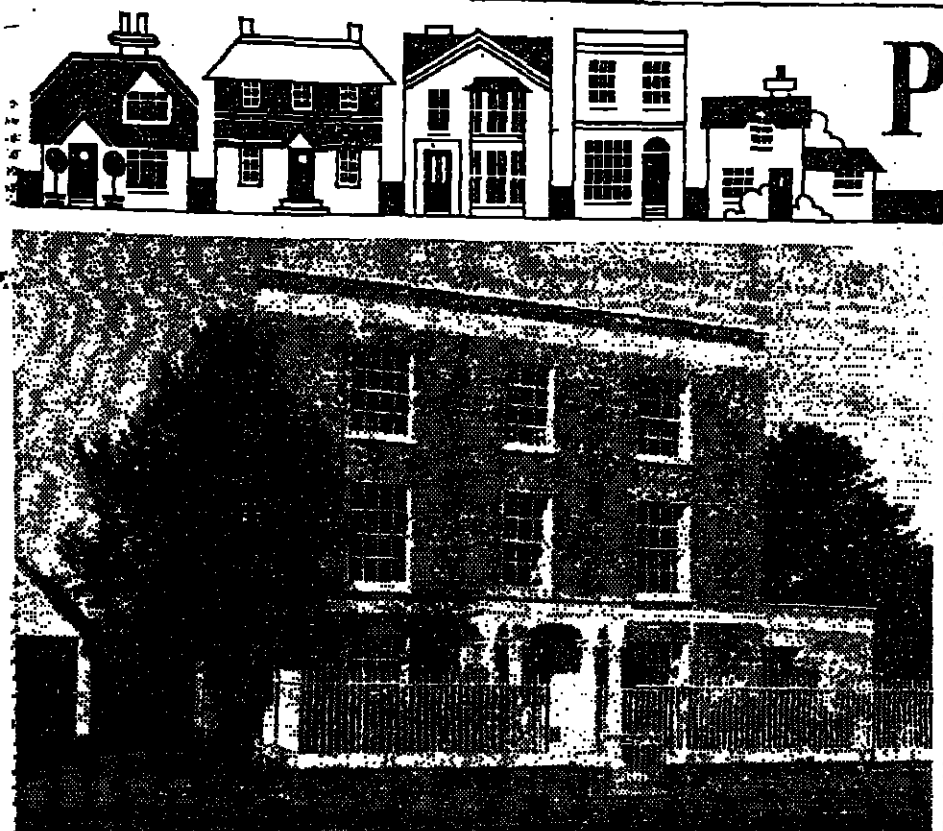


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[illegible]





Battlecree Hall, in Lower Halford, Middlesex.

## Homes with scope for conversion

The house which needs modernisation and possible conversion without being in a state of total dereliction still attracts a good deal of attention from buyers. One important source of this kind of property are old farm workers' cottages, which the landowner prefers to sell rather than let.

Since so many of this kind of older dwellings were originally constructed in pairs or terraces of three, they offer a lot of scope for what need not necessarily be an unduly expensive conversion operation, provided ambitions are kept within bounds. Two such properties are for sale through the Wimborne office of Savills, in Dorset.

The larger of the two, known as Bessy Cottage and Box Cottage, is in the village of Wimborne, near Wimborne. It was originally a terrace of three, but two have already been converted to form the main part of the property. This has two reception rooms, three bedrooms and an attic room. Box Cottage, the end section, would add a further living room and bedroom as well as a further kitchen, which could be added to the main part or used as a separate annex. The building itself is mostly stucco and has some exposed half-timbering to one side.

The price is £32,500. The other property is a pair of cottages, known as Manswood Cottages, in the neighbouring village of Manswood, Dorset. The building is stucco and the two together would provide three reception rooms, four bedrooms and two bathrooms. Just over half an acre of garden goes with the property, which is for sale at £27,500.

Different conversion potential is offered by a property at 1, The Green, Aldbourne, near Marlborough. Although at present used as a "do-it-yourself" shop, it is, in fact, a surprisingly spacious village house, with a shop, store and offices on the ground floor and a flat above it, with separate access. The shop area is 334 sq ft and the flat has a sitting room and three bedrooms.

It could, of course, continue in its present use as a shop, converted back into a roomy house. A good point for a village property is that there

is a garage with a side access over a shared drive. The price is £25,000 and the agents are John German Ralph Pay, of Kimsbury.

One similar property which has been well modernized, including central heating, is a detached house at Brinton Common, near Reading, Berkshire. It was formed from two cottages built in 1848. Built of brick and with a tiled roof, it is unusually well located on the edge of a large area of woodland.

There is a large entrance hall, two reception rooms and three bedrooms. It stands in a garden of about half an acre and is for sale at £45,000 through Pearsons, of Basingstoke.

Of interest to somebody looking for a fairly large house with a minimum of garden to maintain is a property called The White House, at Silchester, also being offered by Pearsons. It is a modern Georgian-style house built about five years ago, which stands in a small but easily-handled garden of about one-third of an acre.

Accommodation includes a large reception hall, two main reception rooms, a study, a combined kitchen and breakfast room, a main bedroom and bathroom suite, four further bedrooms and a playroom or sixth bedroom. A feature is that security locks have been fitted to doors and windows. The property is for sale at £43,750.

Of similar size, but with more land attached to it, is a modern house just completed, called Inlet Manor, at Crookham, near Farnham.

The house itself is built of brick and timber under a tiled roof and has double glazing throughout. Accommodation includes three reception rooms, a combined kitchen and breakfast room and a combined shower room and sauna, all on two floors.

Outbuildings include an integral garage, a workshop, a loose box and three further garages, which should give plenty of scope

for a variety of pursuits. The land extends in all to some 16 acres, of which some 8½ acres at present let on an agricultural tenancy. Offers over £70,000 are being asked through Knight Frank and Rutley and Simmons and Son, of Basingstoke.

Also modern but built in cottage style is Spracklets, in Old Mill Place, Putborough, Sussex, which has views across the Arun Valley to the South Downs. Construction is of brick and stone under a tiled roof, and there are two reception rooms, a study or fourth bedroom, a bathroom, a kitchen, a porch and a large garden.

The garden extends to just under an acre and includes an orchard and a paved terrace. It is for sale at £45,000 through Whitehead, of Putborough.

A good Georgian house is Battlecree Hall, in Russell Road, Lower Halford, Middlesex, the author. Very much in the style of its period, it has a pillared entrance porch and sash windows.

Accommodation includes a reception hall, two reception rooms, a main bedroom, dressing room and bathroom suite, and four further bedrooms, one of which could be used as a study. Behind the house is a walled garden of about a quarter of an acre which includes a heated swimming pool, which is covered by a courtyard with a barbecue. The property is for sale through Mann & Co, of Weybridge, at £69,500.

With a grade two listing as being of special architectural or historic interest is Hatch Farm House, at Chatham Hatch, near Canterbury, Kent. It was built mainly in the 17th century with a Queen Anne front and a modern addition. There is a drawing room with a study area, a dining room, a playroom, five bedrooms, a good cellar and an annex which would be suitable for conversion into a self-contained cottage, subject to planning consent.

The gardens are mainly in the front of the house, extending to about half an acre. For sale through Strutt and Parker, of Canterbury, the price is £47,500.

Gerald Ely

## Property

London & Suburban property

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3669, 3671, 3673, 3675, 3677, 3679, 3681, 3683, 3685, 3687, 3689, 3691, 3693, 3695, 3697, 3699, 3701, 3703, 3705, 3707, 3709, 3711, 3713, 3715, 3717, 3719, 3721, 3723, 3725, 3727, 3729, 3731, 3733, 3735, 3737, 3739, 3741, 3743, 3745, 3747, 3749, 3751, 3753, 3755, 375




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Needed for position in a Paris based international petroleum company. Should have minimum of two years legal experience. Must be fully fluent in English and Arabic and able to handle legal matters in both languages. French desirable extra.

Extensive travel. Relocation likely to Middle East Unit Headquarters.

Please submit C.V. in English together with recent photograph to:

General Attorney,  
Services Techniques Schlumberger,  
42 rue Saint Dominique,  
75340 Paris Cedex 07, France.

## THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS OF SCOTLAND

Each year the Highlands and Islands Development Board is compelled to reject dozens of applications for appointments to their Staff from people who are tired of the life in the large centres of population and who are seeking a new challenging job and a chance to work and live in one of the last unspoiled areas of the United Kingdom.

Here, literally, is the chance of a lifetime!  
A vacancy will shortly arise for a

## QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT for the post of HEAD OF FINANCE DIVISION

This is one of the most important posts in the Board's organisation, salary in the range £8,271 to £9,558.

Applicants for the post should be aged between 35 and 50 years and be qualified in accounting. Experience in either industry or banking will be essential and the successful applicant will be expected to be familiar with modern management techniques and have an understanding of the problems of small businesses.

For further details and an application form, please write to, or telephone:

The Personnel Officer (T),  
HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT BOARD,  
Bridge House, Bank Street, Inverness IV1 1OR.  
Tel: Inverness (0463) 34171, Ext. 287.  
Completed applications to be lodged by 5 January, 1978.

## Highlands and Islands Development Board

Bridge House, 27 Bank Street, Inverness.

## Senior Financial Systems Analyst

London from £7850

The Financial Systems & Development Department is concerned with developing and implementing new accounting systems and new approaches to the problems of financial planning and control. A recent project has been the introduction of a large-scale budgetary modelling system.

We now wish to appoint a Senior Analyst within the group whose responsibilities will include the further development of our accounting and associated systems. The main qualifications for this position are a sound understanding of the principles of finance, accounting and systems analysis, coupled with wide experience of computers and computerised systems. Formal accounting qualifications, whilst desirable, are not as important as a record of practical achievement.

The annual salary range for this position is currently £6882-£8154 plus £456 Inner London Weighing plus phases I and II pay policy supplements, but the actual starting point is negotiable within this range.

Please write with full details of age, qualifications, experience and current salary, quoting reference 030501/T, to the Senior Personnel Officer (HQ), British Gas, 59 Bryanston Street, London W1A 2AZ. Closing date for applications 23 December 1977.

**BRITISH GAS**

## British Postgraduate Medical Federation (University of London)

### Appointment of Director

The Governing Body of the Federation is taking steps to appoint a successor to the present Director, Professor G. A. Smart, who will be retiring towards the end of 1978.

Those who wish to be considered for the appointment, or who wish to suggest names for consideration by the Selection Committee, are invited to write to the Chairman of the Governing Body, c/o the Secretary of the Federation, 33 Millman Street, London WC1N 3EL.

All correspondence about the appointment will be treated in the strictest confidence.

## Consultants— Air Transport Industry

■ Aitair Tucker Associates is a small consulting organization backed by a larger group specializing in high-level projects concerning the regulation, management, and economics of air transport and closely allied industries. Management training for senior executives within these fields is also a major activity. Clients include international Agencies, Governments, Regulatory Bodies, major airlines, airport authorities etc.

■ Should suitable candidates present themselves, it is intended to recruit one or more additional Consultants. Such candidates will probably be aged 27-35, have high academic qualifications, have a career pattern to date which demonstrates experience and ability, and have held a position of some responsibility either within, or closely related to, the air transport industry. These appointments are of considerable status and integrity—initiative, flexibility, self-motivation and commitment are essential qualities. Standards are demanding. While based in central London, overseas travel is frequently involved—although trips tend to be of short duration.

■ Salary, conditions of employment, and prospects will reflect the above requirements. Interested parties should send detailed CVs, in the strictest confidence, to:

■ Dr W.S. Barry Aitair Tucker Associates Ltd,  
29-30 St. James's Street, London, SW1A 1HL

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## Iron Ore Railways Australia

## SENIOR ENGINEER TECHNICAL

Hammersley Iron, Australia's major iron ore producer located in the North West of Western Australia, has a 400 km (230 miles) standard gauge railway, linking the Port of Dampier to the mines at Tom Price and Paraburdoo.

An opportunity exists for a qualified and experienced Mechanical Engineer to head up the railways technical department at Dampier.

The successful applicant will be responsible to the General Superintendent — Railways Workshops for engineering design, consultation, investigation and project implementations in support of railways operating and maintenance departments. The emphasis in this position will be on problems of technical control and specialised engineering matters, particularly as these apply to locomotives and rolling stock design.

The Technical Department consists of a small team of Mechanical and Electrical Engineers and Draftsmen.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate previous experience in the design and engineering field of railways rolling stock. The ability to liaise with professional bodies, research organisations and other railway companies is essential.

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Dampier and the nearby town of Karratha are new and modern towns with brick veneer airconditioned, well furnished homes at rental of A\$8.00 per week. Population approximately 11,000. All services are in operation, swimming pool, bowling green, squash, tennis, football, cricket, colour television, cinema, hotel/motel, primary and high schools, dentist, very modern hospital, doctors.

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The North West of Western Australia is developing rapidly. Already we have a first-class team sharing in the prosperity and excitement of the area.

Please write with full details to:

Senior Personnel Officer — Recruitment,  
**Hammersley Iron Pty. Ltd.**  
Box A42, G.P.O.,  
Perth, Western Australia 6001.

## European Consumer Union Director - Brussels

The Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs is a consortium of consumer organisations changed with pressing the consumer point of view in Brussels.

The Bureau is now seeking a DIRECTOR, whose task will be to ensure the efficient and effective operations of the organisation — which comprises a small Brussels office in constant touch with, and able to draw on the resources of, all its member organisations (including Consumers Association, publishers of Which?).

The successful candidate will have most of the following qualifications: fluency in French and English, a working knowledge of EEC institutions, consumer affairs and the management of research, administrative experience and above all, political nous. The salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

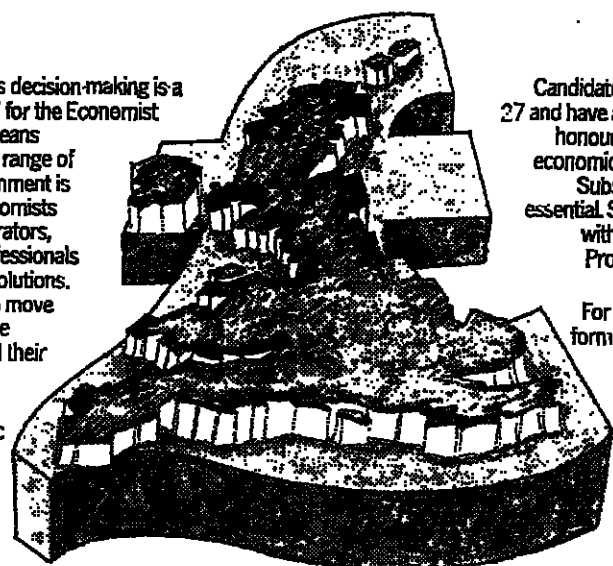
Applications for the post (including curriculum vitae and present salary) should be sent to: Ms. E. Roberts, B.E.U.C., 28 Rue Royale, Bte 3, 1000 Brussels, Belgium.

## Economists

### An important role in national decision-making

Sharing in the nation's decision-making is a major task in any field, and for the Economist in government service it means involvement across a wide range of problem areas. The environment is multi-disciplinary and economists work closely with administrators, statisticians and other professionals to achieve swift, effective solutions. They have opportunities to move between departments in the interests of the Service and their own career development.

There are now opportunities for Economic Advisers in a number of departments. These vacancies are in London, and possibly elsewhere.



Candidates should normally be at least 27 and have a degree with 1st or 2nd class honours, or postgraduate degree, in economics or a closely related subject.

Substantial relevant experience is essential. Starting salary (Inner London) within the range £5,665-£8,435. Promotion prospects to £11,000 and above.

For full details and an application form (to be returned by 9 January 1978) write to: Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: A(1) 6221.

## GES Government Economic Service

### P & I

Small Club requires good all-rounder. Mainly claims work but preference to applicants with legal or underwriting experience.

Understanding and sympathy for mutual members more important than qualifications.

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Reply in writing to Box 0421 K, The Times or telephone: 01-498 4897.

### Group Financial Comptroller

A substantial international diversified trading and shipping Group requires a progressive and energetic person of wide experience and mature outlook to assume responsibility as Group Financial Comptroller.

It is envisaged that the successful candidate will be aged between 30 and 40 years and possessed of a recognised Accountancy qualification.

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Applications should be made in writing with reference to curriculum vitae in the first instance to:

Edward McGuire, St. Paul's House, Warwick Lane, London EC4P 4BN.

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143 GROSVENOR ROAD, LONDON SW1V 3JY. 01-821 8881

Interviews December 19-20,  
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of Switzerland

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# Christmas Gift Guide

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### Enjoy Christmas in London at 3 great hotels

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#### Grosvenor House

For those who want to be pampered and entertained in luxury, for whom only the very best is acceptable. This four night programme from 23rd to 26th December includes an outing to the Grosvenor House and a Gala champagne reception £195.00 per person. Tel. 01-499 6263.

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A discreet, quiet and exclusive three night programme from 24th to 26th December, at one of London's most distinguished holiday hotels. Enjoy traditional fare and a dinner dance. £150.00 per person. Tel. 01-252 2000.

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#### For details and reservations telephone the hotels direct, or 01-567 3444.

All prices are per person sharing a twin bedded room with private bathroom and include second VAT.



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Capture the fun of Christmas as it happens with this special Christmas offer: Colour Swinger £10.95. Super Colour Swinger £18.25. Remember Low Argos prices on Polaroid films too!

Colour Swinger Cat. No. 560/2427. Normal Argos Price £14.95. Argos Special Price £10.95. SAVE £6.50. Famous names at discount prices. \*Polaroid & Swinger are trademarks of the Polaroid Corporation, Cambridge, Mass., USA.

## For the Motorist

### 2 GIFT OFFERS

**SILVER PLATED WINE COASTER**  
A superior quality genuine silver-plated wine coaster, which will add elegance to the enthusiast's table. Made to the highest standards the coaster measures 3" dia x 1 1/2" high, and is beautifully decorated with a drawing of H.M.S. Land's End.

£4.95

#### SIX SILVER PLATED DRINK MATS

For the past two years, our drink mats have been a tremendous success, and this year's offer is bound to be a similar sell-out. The 7" dia silver-plated mats are engraved with superb illustrations of the 1977 Champions in action, and are sure to become another collectors item.

£3.75

**GOOD YEAR**

The offer is available U.K. Mainland only. Please send cheque/P.O. to The Advertising Dept. (Ref. T) Good Year Tyres & Rubber Co. (G.S.) Ltd., Bushway, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. SG13 7BDH.

## For Everyone

### Our Christmas Cards turn into flowers

Interflora Gift Tokens make ideal Christmas gifts. They're exchangeable at full face value for flowers and plants at over 2,000 Interflora florist shops throughout the British Isles. On sale from 50p upwards, with a free greetings card and envelope, you decide how much you want to spend—and leave those you send them to pick whatever flowers they like.

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### THE BOOK OF WIT AND HUMOUR

A Public Speaker's Treasury. PETER CAGNEY £3.50. 370 pages crammed with over 3,000 jokes, riddles, puns, and other humorous material. Includes 200 humorous definitions, 100 humorous sayings, and 100 humorous quotations. A must for anyone who loves a good laugh.

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We have just opened a new fashion department at 12 Great Marlborough Street, London, W.1. Situated very close to Oxford Circus.

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Ladies' and men's sheepskin coats in every possible size. Personal shoppers only. TRAVEL AND SPORTS. 405 The Strand, W.C.2. Tel. 01-240 1788.

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# THE TIMES CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE COMPETITION.

The hand that wields the pen writes a gripping word. Or so last year's letter writing competition made us believe. So this year we would like to test your powers of persuasion even more by asking you to draft an official epistle.

So, at the same time as solving your present problems, write a letter and win yourself one of these fabulous prizes.

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B.A. 31b presentation box of Bendicks hand made chocolates.

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Bols Crème de Menthe. 1 1/2 bottle Bols Dry Orange Curacao.

D. Wine Pack. 1 bottle Veuve Clicquot Yellow Label Champagne. 1 bottle Croft Original Sherry. 1 bottle Croft Distinction Port. 1 bottle La Cour Pavillon 1973.

E. A box of 25 Bolivar Bonita Havana Cigars.

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First study the guide carefully. Then answer in full three simple questions. (The answers are all in the advertisements in today's Guide.)

Christmas Gift Guide Competition Number 15  
Clue: Something for the Motorist to put his drinks on?

Clue: You will find this Trading Post in Oxford?

Clue: How much would a snooker set cost you this Christmas?

Now put yourself in Santa's snow boots. Your sleigh is so laden and time so short that you're not likely to consider traffic wardens every time you pull Rudolph to a stop. Imagine your reaction when you are summarised for parking in a restricted zone.

Then write a 100 word letter to the Clerk of the Magistrates. You are going to plead mitigating circumstances. After all The Times Christmas Gift Guide has made so much extra work this year you can't be expected to notice every yellow line. And remember, a touch of joviality will probably soften the judicial heart.

Then send your letter, remembering to enclose your full name and address, and indicating which prize you would like to receive should you win.

Three entrants must win every day the Guide is published. Closing date for today's competition. 3 days after today's date. Post this entry to: THE TIMES CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE COMPETITION, No. 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YT.

The names and addresses of the winners will be published in The Times. The decision of the judges is final. All entries will be judged on their literary merits.

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